Hafa Adai!

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Accountability board to monitor use of stabilization fund. PAGE 2

Ex-senator Villagomez sues Fund for withholding benefits. PAGE 3

Fugitive lawyer Arriola arrested in RP

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The long arm of the law finally caught up with fugitive lawyer Joseph Aldan Arriola on Tuesday in a village in the northern part of the Philippines.

A Federal Bureau of Investigation agent informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI yesterday of Arriola's arrest just before the start of the new jury trial of Arriola's co-defendant, Luis K. Pelisamen.

After hearing the information, attorney Douglas Cushnie, counsel for Pelisamen, told the court that they will proceed with the jury trial.

According to a report in the website of the news-

See FUGITIVE on Page 4

NMC DIRECTOR QUITS

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

After over a year with the Northern Marianas College, Wil Castro resigned yesterday from his post as director of the Office of Institutional Effectiveness, to return to Guam.

NMC president Carmen Fernandez confirmed Castro's resignation yesterday and

See NMC on Page 4

NMI to send 42 students to nat'l competitions

Forty-two public and private school students were named official Commonwealth delegates to three prestigious national competitions this month.

On Saturday, the CNMI team for the International Thespian Society festival will fly to Lincoln, Nebraska, to represent the islands in the five-day competition.

Twelve seniors and six junior high school students comprise the delegation, each winning their tickets with first place overall performances in both the local chapter and regional events on island.

Senior thespians of the Western Pacific Islands who will compete at the June 24-28 event include Sung Yul Bail, Moon Hyo Lee, Liezel Tiples, Aisha Joyner, Akeiko Dela Cruz, Miki Nadia Dela Cruz, Anna Rose Deleon Guerrero, Joseph Martin, Adeleyah Mojica, Matthew Wheat, Kyoung Min Park, and Jackie David.

For the junior high school thespian festival, the CNMI named to its national team Ray Mark Denora, Tony Bai, Zalika Joyner, Dayanara Flores, Royze Banados, and Reece Brown.

The students—who will do mime, monologues, duet acting, and solo musical—will be flying with CNMI chapter director Harold Easton and adviser Wesley Foster.

Teachers-coaches will also accom-

See NMI on Page 4

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI Team's senior thespian delegates to the International Thespian Society festival this month.

The junior thespians of the NMI Team who will fly to Lincoln, Nebraska on Saturday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mobil mirrors Shell's 10-cent price increase

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Mobil Oil Marianas yesterday raised by 10 cents the pump prices of its regular and super unleaded gasoline and diesel fuel, following a similar price hike by Shell Marianas on Tuesday.

See MOBIL on Page 4

Saipan motorists are now paying an additional 10 cents for every gallon of fuel following the price increase of Mobil Oil Marianas yesterday and Shell Marianas on Tuesday, barely two weeks after a 15-cent hike. HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

OPINION METER

This week's poll:

With the pandemic alert now at Phase 6, do you practice what DPH recommends to avoid the flu?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS PHASE 6

As of June 17, 2009

Phase 1: Viruses circulating among animals have yet to cause infections in humans.

Phase 2: An animal influenza virus is causing infection in humans, and is considered a potential pandemic threat.

Phase 3: An animal or human-animal influenza virus has caused sporadic cases or small clusters of disease in people, but has not resulted in human-to-human transmission sufficient to sustain community-level outbreaks.

Phase 4: Verified human-to-human transmission of an animal or human-animal influenza virus able to cause "community-level outbreaks."

Phase 5: A strong signal that a pandemic is imminent and that the time to finalize the organization, communication, and implementation of planned mitigation measures is short.

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

GQ Cover

Sacha Baron Cohen strips down as his alter ego for the July cover of GQ magazine.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 21

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Local

Accountability board to monitor use of stabilization fund

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The U.S. Department of Education has informed Gov. Benigno R. Fitial of the creation of a government-wide Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board that will coordinate and monitor the use of stabilization funds for the CNMI and other states to prevent fraud, waste, and abuse of program monies.

Joseph Conaty, secretary for USDOE's elementary and secondary education, asked Fitial on Tuesday to maintain records that will separately track the funds received under each grant award and report every quarter on both financial information, program outcomes, and results.

In addition, Conaty said, for each year of the stabilization program, the CNMI must provide the USDOE a report on the use of funds provided under the program, estimated number of jobs created or saved, and the extent of progress since the fund's application.

"We recognize the challenges that the insular areas are facing are very serious…but I also wish to stress that enactment of the ARRA and more specifically the significant amount of funding we will be providing through the stabilization program gives you an unprecedented opportunity to undertake comprehensive educational and fiscal reforms that can result in better programs and improved educational outcomes," the USDOE official told Fitial, adding that the department will provide guidance and technical assistance to support the Commonwealth in these efforts.

Assistance

Of the $268 million ARRA funds allocated to insular areas, CNMI-PSS was allocated $44,433,595 to maintain essential educational services at elementary, secondary, and postsecondary levels. The funds will help public schools retain teachers, prevent the cutting of education programs, renovate and repair school buildings, and strengthen the technology infrastructure of schools.

The CNMI only had about 500 public school teachers handling nearly 11,000 kids from Kindergarten to high school last school year. Due to the meager budget it gets locally, PSS was barred from hiring additional teachers and staffers. Overcrowding in schools was also attributed to the teacher shortage and lack of classrooms.

In exchange for the stabilization funds, Conaty said recipients like the CNMI must take immediate action to enhance the qualifications and effectiveness of teachers in public schools. The CNMI must also establish a longitudinal data system and improve the quality of its academic standards and assessments.

First phase

In the initial phase, the CNMI will receive 67 percent of the total $44.4 million allocation, Conaty said.

In this phase, the CNMI must provide the required assurances, specific maintenance of effort data, and project plans on the uses of the funds.

The remaining funds will be awarded in phase two after it provides baseline data for each of the assurances and when the USDOE approves the CNMI comprehensive plan for making progress.

Specific information on the phase two will soon be issued to CNMI-PSS.

Like in the States, the insular areas will receive stabilization funds under two components—education stabilization fund and the government services fund.

Saipan Tribune learned that USDOE will award 81.8 percent of the total allocation under the education stabilization fund and the remaining 18.2 percent under the government services fund.

The CNMI, however, has the flexibility to demonstrate in its application that a variation in these percentages is warranted.

Expenditure authority

Conaty said that, based on consultations with the U.S. Department of the Interior, the funds were allocated on the same basis as what USDOE allocates to the states.

"The many suggestions the insular areas offered regarding the terms and conditions of these grants have enabled us to tailor the program in a manner that best addresses the specific needs," Conaty said.

Insular area governors have requested the transfer of expenditure authority of the ARRA funds from USDOE to the Interior Department.

Man in forgery case arrested for not cooperating with cops

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Police one more arrested the man suspected of breaking into a patient's room at the Commonwealth Health Center and stealing a debit card and other items, this time for not cooperating with the police's investigation.

The Superior Court unsealed the case and revoked the agreement for the release of Calvin A. Fitial from custody.

The court issued the revocation after chief prosecutor Kevin Lynch informed the court that Fitial has breached the conditions of his release.

"Fitial has not provided truthful assistance in the recovery of the victim's property, has not shown up for appointments with Detective Christopher Leon Guerrero and has failed to maintain contact with the Department of Public Safety," Lynch said.

Fitial was first arrested on May 11 for allegedly stealing three First Hawaiian Bank debit cards and other items from the room of a patient at CHC. He reportedly used the cards to buy items from the Taga Market in San Vicente, KL Market in Koblerville, and TM Sablan Co. in Chalan Piao.

Fitial was charged with burglary, theft, forgery, theft by deception, and theft of service. A bail of $50,000 was imposed for his temporary liberty.

Lynch stated that after the arrest, Fitial asked the police to make him a confidential informant. In exchange, he would be released on his recognizance without posting cash bail. The government agreed.

However, Lynch said that Fitial has not cooperated with law enforcers in ongoing investigations.

This prompted the CNMI government to ask for the revocation of Fitial's release. Police arrested Fitial again on Tuesday. He was brought to the Superior Court yesterday.

Associate Judge David Wiseman imposed a $2,500 cash bail for Fitial's temporary liberty. Preliminary hearing was set for June 24.

Tudela joins US Mayors' conference

Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela recently joined the 77th U.S. Mayors' Conference held in Rhode Islands.

The annual meeting of city and municipal heads from the mainland and all U.S. territories, including American Samoa, Guam, and the CNMI, ended on Tuesday.

Representatives of federal agencies joined the meeting to assist the mayors in the implementation of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act as well as other key issues facing their cities and municipalities.

The ARRA funding for the youth has a total of $1.2 billion.

During the conference, U.S. mayors elected a new leader—Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels, who was sworn in as the 67th president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

He replaces Miami Mayor Manny Diaz.

Tudela is has been regularly attending the conference. He is expected to report to his office tomorrow. ***(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***

Ex-senator Villagomez sues Fund for withholding benefits

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Former senator Thomas P. Villagomez is suing the NMI Retirement Fund for allegedly refusing to pay his retirement benefits.

"This case is about the Retirement Fund's double-standards, and how it must end!" said Villagomez through counsel, Ramon Quichocho, in the lawsuit he filed yesterday in federal court.

Villagomez named Fund administrator Mark A. Aguon, the Fund trustees, and 10 unnamed persons as co-defendants.

The former senator sued the defendants for deprivation of property, conspiracy to deprive him of property, constructive fraud, negligence, breach of fiduciary duty, and breach of contract.

He asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to compel the defendants to pay him damages, attorney's fees, and court costs.

Villagomez also asked the court to issue a mandatory injunction that will order the Fund to immediately process his application for retirement benefits and release all the retirement benefits due him.

Quichocho stated in the complaint that Villagomez began contributing to the Fund when he was sworn in as a member of House of the Representatives in January 1990.

Villagomez was re-elected to the 8th Legislature, where he served as House Speaker in 1992. After serving four years in the House, he was elected a senator in 1994, keeping the position until January 2006. He served a combined 16 years as a lawmaker in both the House and Senate.

After his stint as a legislator, Villagomez was employed as a Senate senior legislative assistant in February 2006.

During his 18 years of government service, Villagomez contributed a percentage of his income to the Fund as required by law, Quichocho said.

In March 2008, Villagomez chose to retire and submitted his application for retirement benefits to the Fund.

Quichocho said Aguon had certified Villagomez to be eligible for retirement benefits starting March 28, 2008.

Quichocho said that on April 10, 2008, in order to meet the 20-year requirement of government service for a retiree to be entitled to an additional five-year credit, Villagomez paid the Fund $28,092.39 as employee's share of the difference in the contribution.

He said Villagomez later learned from the Fund that the CNMI has not paid its share as employer contribution, becoming the basis for the withholding of his retirement benefits.

Villagomez wrote the Fund a letter on July 29, 2008, asking for the return of the $28,092.39 he paid plus interest.

"To date, plaintiff has not received a single cent of retirement benefits despite being certified to be eligible for retirement benefits," Quichocho said.

The lawyer also alleged that the board of trustees, in violation of the CNMI Constitution and the Fund Act's proscription against diminution and impairment of retirement benefits, passed a resolution on Nov. 20, 2007, stating its "intention" to direct the Fund to suspend processing all applications for retirement or any other benefits of any member with deficient employer contributions.

Quichocho said Aguon refused to process Villagomez's application for retirement benefits, in violation of the CNMI Constitution and the Fund Act.

DCCA has until next week to submit requirements for $1.3M block grant

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

After almost a month's delay, the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs was given until next week to submit requirements for the block grant it regularly receives from the federal government.

The anticipated grant would be about $1.3 million, under the so-called Community Services Block Grant as provided in CNMI Public Law 2-19.

"This particular program funding is known as the Social Service Block Grant and is a capped entitlement program," said acting Secretary Melvin O. Faisao.

He said they just discovered that the deadline to apply for the grant was May 27, 2009. DCCA was given an extension until June 23 to submit a plan on how it intends to use the money, to meet the requirement of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Faisao said DCCA is still in the process of finalizing the state plan. Fortunately, he said, the state plan does not require a public hearing.

Faisao said the Division of Youth Services under the direction of Calvani Deleon Guerrero takes a lead role in summing up a plan of action, which will include services and activities that minimize and prevent causes of poverty in the community.

"These include but are not limited to recreational services, individual and group counseling, outreach, survival education, employability development, and substance abuse prevention activities, most especially among young or teenage parents," Faisao said.

The state plan is now being reviewed by five units: juvenile detention unit, child protection unit, volunteering program, parenting, and emergency foster care units.

"We have to streamline all the units because of the cut in our budget," Faisao said.

Fund's home loan portfolio for sale

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

After suspending its housing loan program for over two years now, the Retirement Fund board of trustees has decided to let go of the program and voted to sell it to a third-party operator.

Fund board chair Juan T. Guerrero disclosed this yesterday, saying an interested party has signified its intention to take over the program from the Fund.

"Once all requirements are satisfied by the interested party, then we will probably discuss the whole issue and transaction," Guerrero said.

According to Fund administrator Mark Aguon, the home loan program was suspended two years ago because there was very little interest shown by borrowers, largely because of the easier process and lower rates in banks.

"We were also short-staffed, and needed to shift duties to more important functions at the Fund," Aguon said.

The loan portfolio for sale ranges from $3 million to $5 million.

The Fund earlier reported that the program suffers from a significant delinquency rate among borrowers.

Guerrero confirmed yesterday that there were over 100 loans that were turned over to a local bank in the past.

When asked why the Fund wants to sell the portfolio, the Fund chairman said it is the desire of the trustees to concentrate their efforts and functions on the Fund's investments and assets.

"We're trying to sell the portfolio so we can concentrate on the Fund's investments and management of its assets, especially in this time of economic distress," he said.

The trustees, he added, believe that the CNMI has better alternative programs to offer such as that of the Northern Marianas Housing Corp.

Guerrero said in the previous years, the Fund had approved selling a certain percentage of its housing loan portfolio with the Bank of Pacific.

"We sold out some part of the portfolio to Bank of Pacific. … This time, we want to totally get out of it so we can focus on our investments rather than being a direct loan provider," he said.

With the ongoing "mess" with the central government, which it sued for nonpayment of over $200 million in employer contribution, the Fund chairman said the trustees will explore other options and means to stabilize the Fund.

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Delta Airlines marks 80 years of passenger service

TAMUNING, Guam—Delta Airlines celebrated yesterday an important milestone: 80 years of passenger service.

In an extraordinary growth story that started with a monoplane service carrying five passengers from Dallas, Texas, to Jackson, Mississippi on June 17, 1929, Delta has grown to become the largest airline in the world, operating flights to 382 destinations in 71 countries and serving more than 170 million passengers each year on its modern fleet of over 1,000 aircraft.

Kicking off the celebration on June 10, Delta Airlines dedicated its newest Boeing 777LR to former president and CEO Dave Garrett, now 86 years old. This plane is already in service today and will be used on the inaugural Los Angeles – Sydney route on July 1.

This aircraft dedication follows in a strong Delta tradition of celebrating the strong bond between the company and its employees. In 1982, Delta employees led a voluntary program to raise $30 million, enabling the purchase of Delta's first Boeing 767, named "The Spirit of Delta." The U.S. economy was at a low point at the time, but the dedication and commitment that Delta employees showed to the company in this remarkable gift lifted the spirits of the entire organization and saw them through the difficult time.

"In its 80 years, Delta Air Lines has seen commercial aviation become the major mode of international transportation and has grown to become the largest airline in the world," comments Richard Anderson, Delta's chief executive officer. "Delta today is built on the strong foundations of all those who have dedicated themselves to the company over its long history and today we continue to strive to make Delta the global airline of choice by offering better service to more people than any other airline."

Delta Air Lines is the world's No. 1 airline. From its hubs in Atlanta, Cincinnati, Detroit, Memphis, Minneapolis-St. Paul, New York-JFK, Salt Lake City, Paris-Charles de Gaulle, Amsterdam and Tokyo-Narita, Delta, its Northwest subsidiary and Delta Connection carriers offer service to 382 destinations in 71 countries and serves more than 170 million passengers each year. Delta's marketing alliances allow customers to earn and redeem either SkyMiles or WorldPerks on more than 16,000 daily flights offered by SkyTeam and other partners. Delta's more than 70,000 employees worldwide are reshaping the aviation industry as the only U.S. airline to offer a full global network. Customers can check in for flights, print boarding passes, check bags and flight status at delta.com. ***(PR)***

NMI

From Page 1

pany the teams, including Dora Miura, Hilda Joyner, Amy Babauta, Catherine Barja, Jane Mack, and Jojo Alepuyo.

According to Hilda Joyner, the teams have been diligently practicing their performances since the conclusion of the regional event in March. Their last rehearsals are scheduled this Friday, a day before their flight to Nebraska.

Joyner, who has been traveling to the International Thespian Society festival for three years now, said the CNMI Team keeps becoming more competitive.

"I am convinced that we're sending the most talented and smart kids we have on the island. I am sure the CNMI will again offer a good show and performance in the national events," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The members of the NMI Team to the National Forensic League and the National Junior Forensic Leagues pose after their "Showcase" last Friday at Multi-Purpose center.

'24 NFL, NJFL members'

Easton, who is also the CNMI's NFL board chairman, said the Commonwealth sends some of its most talented youth each year to the National Forensic League and National Junior Forensic League.

"Each year the CNMI team comes back with numerous awards and students who are ranked in the nation's top 100 and even the top 10—an amazing testament to the success of our program and the talent of our kids when you think of the thousands of students in the U.S. national programs," said Easton.

This year the NJFL competition will be in San Antonio, Texas while the NFL is set in Birmingham, Alabama.

Last June 12, the NMI team for the NFL flew to Alabama for the national contest slated for June 14-16. On June 24, NJFL members will fly to Texas for the June 26-28 competition.

A "showcase" of what they will perform in the national events was held last week at the Multi-Purpose Center.

The team members for both junior and senior forensic leagues include Kahra Atalig, Anastasia Schweiger, Frank Yeung, Emily Dotts, Hazel Doctor, Genesis Rango, John Edward Elenzano, Eunice Park, Mark Anthony Liban, Kang San Kim, Ann Elenzano, Jesse Sablan, Zalika Joyner, Jessica Lee, Christian Punzalan, Dencio Manglona, Ju Hiu Hwang, Joseph Martin, Crystalline Cristobal, Mickey Johnson, Oilang Maui, Bianca Blanco, Glen Florendo, Maria Cabrera, and Ryan Ortizo.

The Public School System pays for the airfare of team members. ***(Moneth Deposa)***

MOBIL

From Page 1

Saipan motorists now pay $3.37 a gallon for self-serve regular unleaded gasoline bought from Mobil and Shell service stations, barely two weeks after prices increased by 15 cents a gallon.

The two oil giants, however, have different prices for premium/super unleaded gasoline. Mobil's pump price for super unleaded gasoline is $3.67 a gallon, while Shell's rate is $3.69 a gallon.

Diesel fuel at Mobil and Shell service stations now costs $3.54 a gallon.

This is the fourth time that pump prices of gasoline products on Saipan increased this year, which translates to additional 55 cents since February.

Each of these price changes was not announced beforehand by Mobil and Shell. Motorists just know about them when they see the price displays reflecting the new rates, mostly starting midnight.

Rep. Stanley Torres (R-Saipan) said yesterday the latest price increase by Shell and Mobil adds credence to his June 3 letter to the U.S. U.S. Department of Justice to investigate Mobil and Shell for what he describes as a "disturbing and blatant case of price fixing" in the CNMI.

"The whole fuel supply is not exhausted yet and they have already raised the price for the new shipment…I believe the tanker just left the island [Tuesday] and they changed the price Tuesday and Wednesday," Torres told *Saipan Tribune*.

He said the Justice Department had acknowledged receipt of his letter, and he expects a formal reply soon.

Jeff Boyer, Shell retail area manager, earlier said the company is only "reflecting the increased cost of crude oil" in the international market.

Gas prices have been driven higher as the price of crude oil, which is the main ingredient in gasoline, has more than doubled since the end of last year. The price of oil rose to $72.68 a barrel Thursday, its highest level in more than 7 months, CNN reported.

NMC

From Page 1

lauded his valuable contributions to the college's accreditation efforts.

Some faculty members and employees who declined to be identified told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that Castro's decision to leave was "expected" following the renewal of the president's contract for four more years.

Castro, they said, was among the individuals who earlier disagreed with some of management decisions at the college.

NMC hired Castro in February 2008 to fill a position that had been identified as vital to the reaffirmation of the college's accreditation.

Castro replaced Robert Churney, and signed a three-year contract that included up to $60,000 of annual pay.

"It was the privilege of a lifetime to be invited to be part of a team that would work toward addressing the show-cause status of a college," he said yesterday. He also expressed hope that the accreditation commission will issue a positive decision on NMC's status this month.

"The bottom line is that the 'hard lifting' is done," said Castro. "NMC has talented and committed personnel who will maintain the momentum that's been built in the last two years."

NMC commended Castro for coming up with a systematic and simplified model of planning and program review that has met the Western Association of Schools and Colleges' expectations.

Castro also served as president of the PROAC, program review outcome and assessment committee. He is a former chief planner of the Guam Public School System.

"The transformation of the college from a year and a half ago to today is simply amazing," said Castro yesterday. "I'm honored to have been a part of such a fine team of professionals. Credit is to be given to those who put in the long hours, holidays, and weekends to get the work done."

Fernandez, in a statement yesterday, said Castro has been a valuable member of the NMC management team and has contributed significantly to the college during one of its most challenging periods.

"We are most grateful for his leadership in the college's planning and program review activities and offer our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to him," said Fernandez yesterday.

The WASC will decide this month whether to lift NMC's show-cause status or remove its accreditation.

Last week, Fernandez was in San Francisco for an oral presentation with the WASC regarding the supplemental report that was submitted on May 31.

FUGITIVE

From Page 1

paper *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, the 42-year-old Arriola did not resist arrest when a composite team of law enforcers swooped down on his residence on Tuesday shortly before lunch at Barangay (village) Butao in Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan.

The report stated that the Saipan lawyer has been turned over to Philippine immigration agents, who will process his deportation to the U.S.

The report said that, in a letter to the chief of the Philippine's Bureau of Immigration, the U.S. Department of Justice disclosed that Arriola's passport had been revoked by the U.S. State Department after Arriola and Pelisamen were indicted in the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Saipan.

The U.S. Justice Department asked the Bureau of Immigration to issue a mission order to arrest and deport Arriola to the U.S.

The report mentioned that on April 27, 2009, Arriola went to the U.S. Embassy in Metro Manila to submit documents in preparation for his marriage to his Filipino fiancee, Jovie Cerveza.

Cerveza is a resident of Barangay Cablong, which is also located in Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan.

The report stated that Arriola could have been staying in Sta. Barbara for a year now, moving from village to another.

The *Inquirer* story quoted police chief Supt. Eric Noble as saying that, on Monday night, police searched for Arriola's fiancee in Cablong but residents there told them that she and her spouse had moved.

"The lead came from a police officer who lives there [in Butao]. When I mentioned [Arriola's fiancee's] name, he knew the lady," Noble told *Inquirer*.

Arriola and Pelisamen are facing charges of wire fraud and money laundering. The FBI arrested Pelisamen in January 2008 following the indictment. Arriola, however, fled the CNMI.

Last month, a hung jury prompted the federal court to declare a mistrial in the case against Pelisamen.

Pelisamen used to serve as administrator for the estate of Rita Kaipat. Arriola served as then counsel for Pelisamen.

Then Superior Court Associate Judge Juan T. Lizama kicked out Pelisamen and Arriola from the Kaipat estate after finding out that some of the estate's money was missing.

According to the indictment, Arriola and Pelisamen stole $625,575 from the estate's account. The two allegedly issued 66 checks amounting to $219,000 to themselves.

Yesterday afternoon, the U.S. government and the defense completed their opening arguments in the trial of Pelisamen.

When *Saipan Tribune* left the courtroom, former Superior Court associate judge Timothy H. Bellas, who also used to serve as counsel for the Rita Kaipat estate, was still on the witness stand.

UOG mentor offers solutions to chronic nursing shortage

Retaining new graduates and nurses at all stages of their professional careers, including later stages, is one major approach to increasing the nursing workforce, said a faculty member of the University of Guam in a presentation made yesterday at the ongoing 31st Conference of the American Pacific Nursing Leaders Council at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Lori Duenas, former president of APNLC, also recommends an increase in the number of enrolled and graduating nursing students.

Yet another approach is to attract nurses who have left the national nursing workforce for other occupations or retirement.

Duenas identified some of the causes of nursing shortages: fewer people choosing nursing as a profession; increased professional opportunities for women; limited numbers accepted into programs; a shortage of nursing faculties; an aging nursing workforce; and fewer people staying in clinical roles.

Other factors that complicate the situation are job dissatisfaction, inadequate staffing, heavy workloads, increased use of overtime, lack of professional respect, and inadequate wages.

A few of the common factors that influence health professionals to leave the industry include having a first child; a spouse getting relocated; wanting to live elsewhere; having a large caseload; a high staff-patient ratio; too modest salary increases; interpersonal conflicts; lack of input in departmental decisions; and disillusionment with management.

To make sure health professionals stay, Duenas said there must be professional growth opportunities as well as a fair salary and good peer relationships.

For those in the job for one to three years, she said departments must give nurses a choice where to work, to ensure professional growth opportunities and satisfying caseloads.

For those who have been nurses for four to six years, continued professional growth opportunities must be supplemented by interdisciplinary teamwork, she said. Professional growth opportunities must continue beyond six years, she added.

Duenas explained the need for Magnet designation, which is the highest level of recognition awarded to nursing services by the American Nurses Credentialing Center.

She noted that research shows that nurses practicing in Magnet facilities report high levels of job satisfaction. Such facilities, she said, have high quality care and strong recruitment and retention of nurses. ***(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***

Jim Bell foiled again in new try to swim around Aguijan

By ANITA HOFSCHNEIDER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Jim Bell, a 71-year-old CNMI resident who previously made headlines by swimming or attempting to swim the dangerous channels between the Marianas islands, has again been thwarted by ocean currents in his latest try to swim around Aguijan island.

Last Friday, June 12, Bell took a boat to Aguijan and took off from the western shoreline at 9:34am, intending to circle the island.

He swam along the north side to the eastern end of Aguijan, but as he attempted to turn west and swim along the island's south side, his efforts were frustrated.

"I encountered a current head on and stayed in one place for 20 minutes, making no headway," said Bell via email on Tuesday.

Bell turned around in resignation, and decided to swim in deeper, smoother waters on his return trip but another strong current carried him a half mile from shore. Despite having swum for six hours, he was able to overcome the current.

"I pushed hard and was back in the shadow of the shoreline cliffs in an hour," he said in the same e-mail. "I finished up with some night swimming which I enjoy."

A chance meeting with a fishing boat took Bell back to Saipan, as Bell's only means of communication, his cell phone, had gotten wet and stopped working despite being carried in a glass jar. Bell took another boat from Saipan to return home to Tinian.

Bell stated that he plans to return to Aguijan and swim along the south side in the near future. He also plans to swim the Tinian-Aguijan channel, but will first try to find a better way to keep his cell phone dry.

SSHS graduates 99 students

By ANITA HOFSCHNEIDER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Saipan Southern High School graduated another class of Manta Rays on Tuesday, as principal Peter James Le'au bestowed diplomas on 99 deserving seniors.

Cherita Yangirelfil, daughter of Susan and Francis Yangirelfil, received the Outstanding Female Graduate Award and the Board of Education Award, which honors the student with the highest grade point average.

"The future is a challenge," said Yangirelfil in her valedictory address, "and I'm going to face it head on and show it who's boss… Manta Rays always succeed in what they do," she said to a chorus of loud cheering.

CHERITA YANGIRELFIL
Board of Education Award

MIN SOL KIM
Commissioner's Award

Yangirelfil is a member of the Army Reserves and will leave the island for basic training in August. She plans to attend Chaminade University in Hawaii in the fall of 2010, and study to become a doctor.

Min Sol Kim, daughter of Yun Kyong Ja and Kim Jung Bae, was the class salutatorian. She received the Commissioner's Award, which honors the student with the second-highest GPA. Kim plans to go to college in Korea and study to be an English teacher.

The top 10 students in the class also included Min Seok Choi, Thomas Manglona, Janina Maratita, Shawn Michael Cruz, Michelle Averion, John James Taman, Jenny Ecalnea, and Raisa Ferrer.

Maratita also received the Governor's Award for leadership and the PTA Council Award. Cruz achieved the Principal's Award, and Ecalnea was honored with the Mayor's Award for community service.

The SSHS class of 2009 has the distinction of being the first graduating class to complete a higher standard of math requirements.

"They're the first class with 28 credits," said Joel Punzalan, a teacher at SSHS for the past four years. Previous classes only graduated with 24 credits.

Kathryn Barry, regional marketing manager of IT&E, gave the keynote address at the ceremony.

According to vice principal Craig Garrison, in a survey of the class, 62 said they were college-bound, with 41 planning to attend college on island and 21 leaving to pursue education elsewhere. The latter indicated that they will attend colleges in Guam, Hawaii, Virginia, Washington, Kentucky, Oregon, California, Texas, the Philippines, and Korea.

Thirteen responded to the survey stating that they will enter the workforce directly, and 30 have enlisted or are planning to enlist in the military, said Garrison on Tuesday. Some students plan to attend college as well as enlist. Four responded that they are still undecided.

Garrison said that eight students have declared their intention to go into nursing, and 12 plan to go into teaching. Majority were undecided as to which field they will pursue.

Of the 99 graduates, 96 were present for the survey, said Garrison.

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Vets share wartime experiences with local students

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Except for the physical appearance of the island when their plane was descending, the American veterans of World War II who came to commemorate the 65th anniversary of the Battle of Saipan said they have yet to find a place that resembles what Saipan was like during the war.

James Golden, who started as a combat photographer with the Army's intelligence unit, said he had a hard time finding familiar spots.

"Perhaps because you are very successful in making your islands a beautiful and peaceful place to live. There are now big hotels. You have beautiful beaches and you are a hospitable people," said Golden, one of five veterans who sat at a campfire at the Pacific Islands Club on Monday night and shared his experiences during the Battle of Saipan.

The other veterans were Lyman C. Franklin, Kenneth Stinson, Joe Olivera, and Everett Denlaud.

History and current events students from Northern Marianas College under Sam McPheters were present to hear the testimonies of the living veterans, who were no older than18 during the war.

Golden recalled a time when a Japanese pilot saw him dashing along a railroad track but spared his life. He said the plane was flying low and as it passed him, the pilot merely gazed at him before turning toward Tinian. Golden said he had not even bothered to aim his rifle at the oncoming plane.

The American bombardment of Saipan began on June 15 against what was then a stronghold of Japanese forces.

One mystery that has intrigued Golden for the past 65 years was his unit's discovery of Japanese money in a cave here on Saipan.

After blasting a cave that had been used by the Japanese resistance, we found two Japanese men in white uniforms with boxes of bills, said Golden. The money was estimated to be the equivalent of one million U.S. dollars.

"What were these men doing with that big sum of money during that time?" Golden said.

He said no one has ever investigated the source of that wealth.

This and other stories were told and retold by the veterans during the two-hour campfire event.

Stinson recalled finding nine old maps, which he prepared before coming back to Saipan for this visit.

Upon his arrival, Stinson asked a local guide to help him look for the place where he was held up for a couple of days during the war.

Stinson found the spot. A yellow house owned by a man named Peter now stands there.

"At least I found the spot where I made my foxhole to stay for two days," he said. "I told Peter it was alright… It was a beautiful feeling."

The veterans visited Tinian Tuesday before flying back to the mainland yesterday.

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NMI to get $750,000 Brownfields grants

HONOLULU—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has selected the CNMI's Department of Public Lands to receive Brownfields assessment grants totaling $750,000.

The grants, to be announced at the 26th Pacific Islands Environment Conference next week, will be used to perform a total of 26 site assessments, including work at the proposed Tinian landfill site.

Assessment of Brownfields is the first step toward cleanup and redevelopment of potentially contaminated sites. EPA's Acting Pacific Southwest Regional Administrator Laura Yoshii will be highlighting the grant award at the conference.

EPA's Pacific Islands Office, together with the governments of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and American Samoa are hosting the four-day conference, "Climate of Change: Energizing a Sustainable Future for Pacific Islands," on June 22-25, at the Saipan World Resort at Susupe Village, Saipan, CNMI.

"The sessions will focus on efforts making a difference in protecting island environments, examine environmental challenges and issues facing the Pacific Islands, and provide island leaders with the latest ideas and tools on preserving fragile ecosystems," said Yoshii. "The $750,000 in Brownfields assessment grants is just one tool to improve the environment for the residents of CNMI."

IN BRIEF

Climate change conference: June 22-25, Saipan World Resort, Susupe

CONTACT INFO

- Web site: www.regonline.com/PIEC2009
- DEQ: 670-664-8500

"We're honored to have Ms. Yoshii present the grant award. We are also excited to engage in discussions with visiting environmentalists from Guam, American Samoa, Palau, Hawaii and other neighboring countries," said Frank M. Rabauliman, CNMI Division of Environmental Quality director. "I am looking forward to the sessions wherein the CNMI has an opportunity to showcase its success in outreach and education, compliance monitoring, and the Brownfields program. This conference is a testimony of the CNMI's commitment to protect our environment through the many public-private partnerships."

The conference agenda will focus on a wide range of topics including adapting to climate change impacts; increasing sustainable and green infrastructure efforts; community and non-governmental activities to protect the environment; water and wastewater infrastructure issues; and protecting coral reefs.

Pre-conference meetings and workshops to be held on June 22, include a CNMI Energy Summit, co-sponsored by the CNMI DPW Energy Division. The main conference program runs from June 23 to 25. Registration begins at 7:30 each morning, but space is limited and advance registration is highly suggested. The conference sessions are free, but fees may apply to certain activities and lunches. Visit www.regonline.com/PIEC2009 for additional information and to register. Also contact DEQ at 670-664-8500 for more information. ***(PR)***

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'Monitor food served in public schools'

Rep. David Apatang (R-Saipan) and Rep. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) yesterday asked the Public School System to monitor food vendors that serve student meals not meeting nutritional requirements following concerns raised by parents.

"Some vendors, when they run out of supply, serve substitute food that may not be part of the menu approved by the school. PSS should closely monitor this," Apatang told education officials during a House Ways and Means Committee meeting on PSS's proposed Fiscal Year 2010 budget.

Apatang cited pizza as an example of substitute food served to students.

"For me, pizza is not a recommended food for kids. I know it's not a healthy food. I want to make sure PSS monitors the food served. If the kids are hungry and they're not getting proper food, then their learning will be affected," he said in an interview.

Board of Education vice chair Herman T. Guerrero told lawmakers that PSS will look into this.

"Principals and staff should report discrepancies…Thank you for bringing this up," Guerrero told Apatang.

Torres, for his part, said some public school students bring food from home to the school not necessarily because they get tired of what's served in the school canteen but because of small quantity served.

"And some students eat more than the others…PSS should look into this," he said.

PSS awards contracts to private vendors to serve meals to students.

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan said PSS has a nutritionist to help ensure food served to students meet nutritional requirements.

Apatang said the House Health, Education and Welfare Committee will be meeting with the PSS nutritionist to further discuss the matter. "We will follow up on this," Apatang said. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

Justices dismiss Ataligs' appeal in CDA lawsuit

The CNMI Supreme Court dismissed yesterday for failure to prosecute the appeal of former Saipan municipal counselor Felipe Q. Atalig in his case with the Commonwealth Development Authority.

The justices said the motion filed by Atalig, his wife Elvira, and Casa de Felipe to extend time to file their brief failed to comply with the Commonwealth Rules of Appellate Procedures. The justices also denied the motion because it was based on meritless claim of need.

The high court's ruling was issued by associate justice Alexandro Castro, and justices pro tempore Katherine Maraman and Herbert D. Soll.

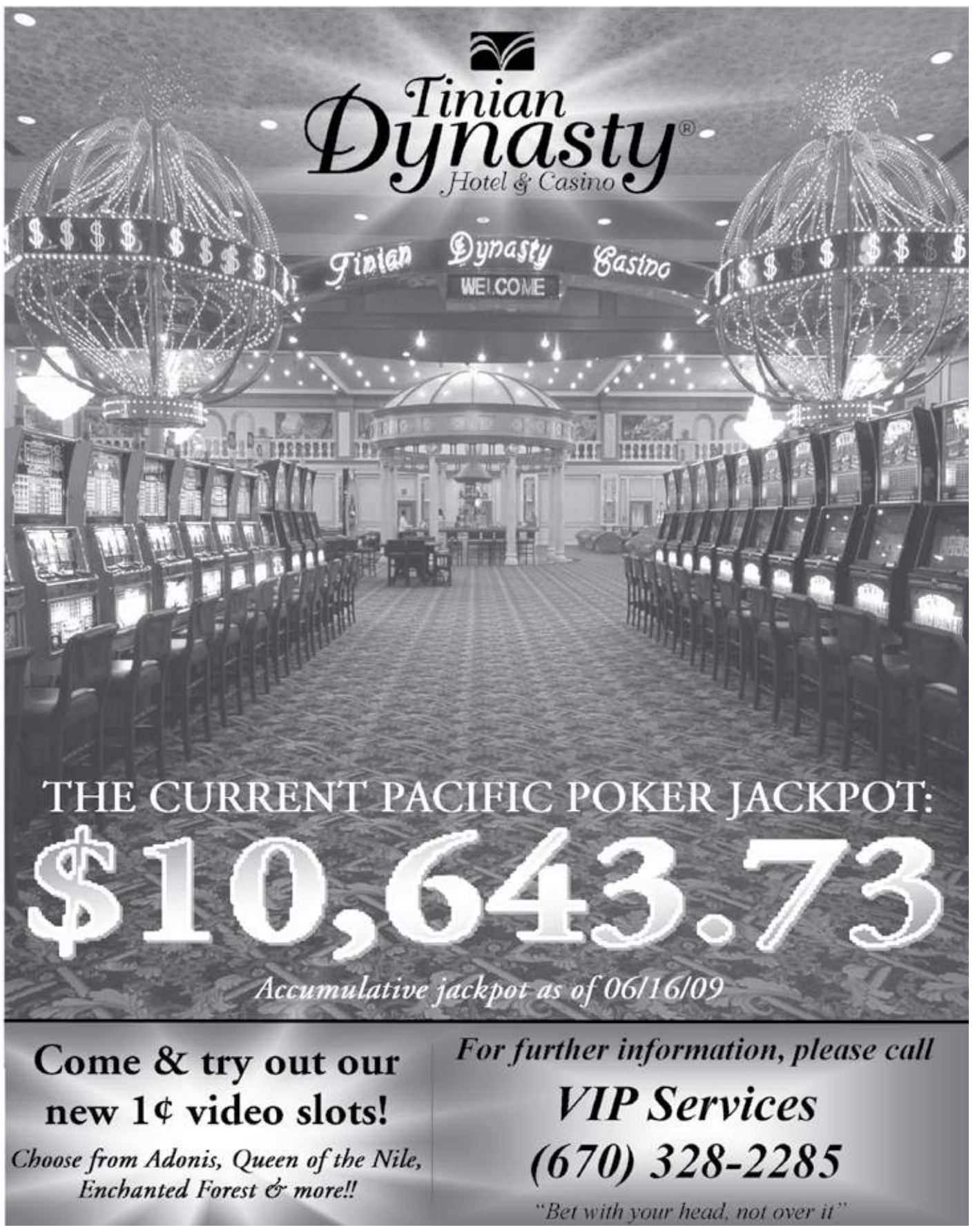
CDA sued the Atalig couple and Casa de Felipe over nonpayment of a $26,684 loan. The trial court issued a decision favorable to CDA.

The Ataligs, through counsel Ramon Quichocho, appealed to the high court.

In dismissing the appeal, the justices said over nine months have past since the high court denied the Ataligs' motion to extend time.

The justices said appellants did not file a timely brief and have not filed a motion requesting permission to file a late brief.

"Nor have appellants sought to explain their delay or otherwise pursue this appeal. Appellants' continued procrastination is unjustified and provides ample reason for the court to dismiss their appeal," the justices said. ***(Ferdie dela Torre)***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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

June 18, 1999

Govt prodded to impose new taxes, cut rebates

The government must impose new taxes and slash rebates to raise badly-needed revenues for its infrastructure development in the next few years as part of a comprehensive economic strategy for the Northern Marianas, according to a report to be released next month. While the study has recommended ways to meet the demand, it has also criticized the government for not spending a substantial share of its budget for the infrastructure needs as well as maintenance of existing facilities of the island. "The CNMI government has done little to provide the funding necessary for capital improvements, choosing instead to dedicate revenues to increasing the personnel budget of many government agencies," the report said.

Chamber backs employer-employee sharing of health cost

With many businesses already reeling from the effects of Asia's economic crisis, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce yesterday threw out its support on a proposed measure that will provide equal sharing of health insurance between employers and employees. According to Kerry M. Deets, president of the Chamber, the proposal is a welcome move as employers have been incurring huge expenses in shouldering 100 percent the medical insurance of nonresident workers. "A 50-50 sharing is an ideal situation. However, if an employer chooses to give a higher percentage, that's already his option but a minimum requirement would be to share the expense," said Deets.

June 18, 2001

Stay limit suspension nears

Suspension of the three-year stay limit law draws closer, after the Senate approved a compromise agreement borne out of months of discussion with the House of Representatives and members of the business community. The compromise bill now heads to Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio for approval. Once signed by the governor, the existing three-year stay limit law will not be implemented until 2004. Judging from the statements issued by the governor in recent interviews, legislators are confident Tenorio will sign the three-year limit suspension into law. Tenorio has consistently talked against imposing a limit on the stay of nonresident workers in the CNMI.

Cancer survivor is MHS valedictorian

Diagnosed with cancer five years ago, Frances B. Ziergiebel thought living long enough to finish high school was close to impossible. She proved this wrong. Last Friday, the 17-year-old incoming college freshman not only completed her secondary education but finished on top of the entire 2001 Marianas High School graduating class. The feat, Ziergiebel admitted, was not an easy undertaking. "I was treated just like any other student. I did my best to attend school, I took extra work to gain extra credits to make up for lost time," said the senior class valedictorian in a speech before a large crowd at MHS' new gymnasium.

June 18, 2002

Landmark tourism accord inked

Two students from a Japan tourism school have signed up for a year-long internship program studying the CNMI's island-style hospitality under a partnership formed between the Northern Marianas College, Hyatt Regency-Saipan and the Trajal Hospitality and Tourism College. Trajal students Mie Tani and Yuka Kawahara will learn about the CNMI's tourism industry first hand as on-the-job trainees at the Hyatt under an internship agreement made official yesterday by NMC Interim President Dr. Barbara Moir, Hyatt General Manager Michael von Siebenthal and Trajal College Vice President for Administration Susumu Seino.

FAA commits to NMI airport security

The U.S. Department of Transportation signed an agreement with the Commonwealth Ports Authority, sealing its commitment to shoulder the costs of federalizing CNMI airports by year-end. The same agreement has been signed with airport operators across the United States and its insular areas. Under the agreement, the transportation department will pay all security expenses to be incurred by the CPA on the implementation of additional screening and security measures. CPA Executive Director Carlos H. Salas said the agreement committed the USDOT's Transportation Security Administration to provide security at the screening areas of all American airports.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

What now on Iran?

Memo to the mullahs: If you're going to fake an election, at least make the results look plausible. According to the official tally in Iran's presidential race Friday, incumbent Mahmoud Ahmadinejad didn't just beat his three opponents, he crushed them, winning 63 percent of the vote and a majority in all 30 provinces. What's more, he beat his pro-reform rivals even in their hometowns and among their own ethnic groups, an extraordinarily unlikely feat.

No one can state with certainty that the Iranian election was invalid, because the balloting is not subject to independent monitoring or review. Indeed, at least one poll suggests that the results were genuine and that Ahmadinejad really is as popular as the tally makes it appear, despite rampant inflation and apparent public disdain for his anti-Western rhetoric. But accurate polls in Iran are very hard to come by, and it's not exactly going out on a limb to assert that the election results are suspicious.

A more interesting question than whether the balloting was fixed, though, is what the United States should do about the results. As the demonstrations grow more heated, with hundreds of thousands of protesters flooding the streets of Tehran on Monday, some conservatives are calling on President Obama to crack down. "Initial reports by, quote, administration officials are that they say they're not going to change their policy of dialogue, et cetera, et cetera. I think (the Iranian regime) should be condemned," said Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz..

McCain is correct that Obama has been reluctant to condemn Tehran; other than declaring that he was "troubled" by the situation during a news conference Monday, he has been quiet. Yet if McCain thinks that a hard-line stance is the path to success in dealing with Iran, he must have slept through the eight years of the Bush administration, whose approach left Tehran in a vastly stronger position geopolitically and helped Ahmadinejad coast to victory in 2005.

Of greatest concern to the United States are Iran's apparent quest for nuclear weapons and its support for anti-U.S. and anti-Israel terrorist groups across the Middle East. Even if reform candidate Mir-Hossein Mousavi had emerged victorious Friday, the country's policies on those issues would not have changed, because they're set not by the country's president but by Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and his clerical appointees. Moreover, history has demonstrated that anti-Iran rhetoric and the pursuit of sanctions without honest attempts at diplomacy simply empower the ruling regime. If Washington's aim is to support the opposition movement, the wisest course is to continue reaching out to the Iranian people and keeping diplomatic doors open.

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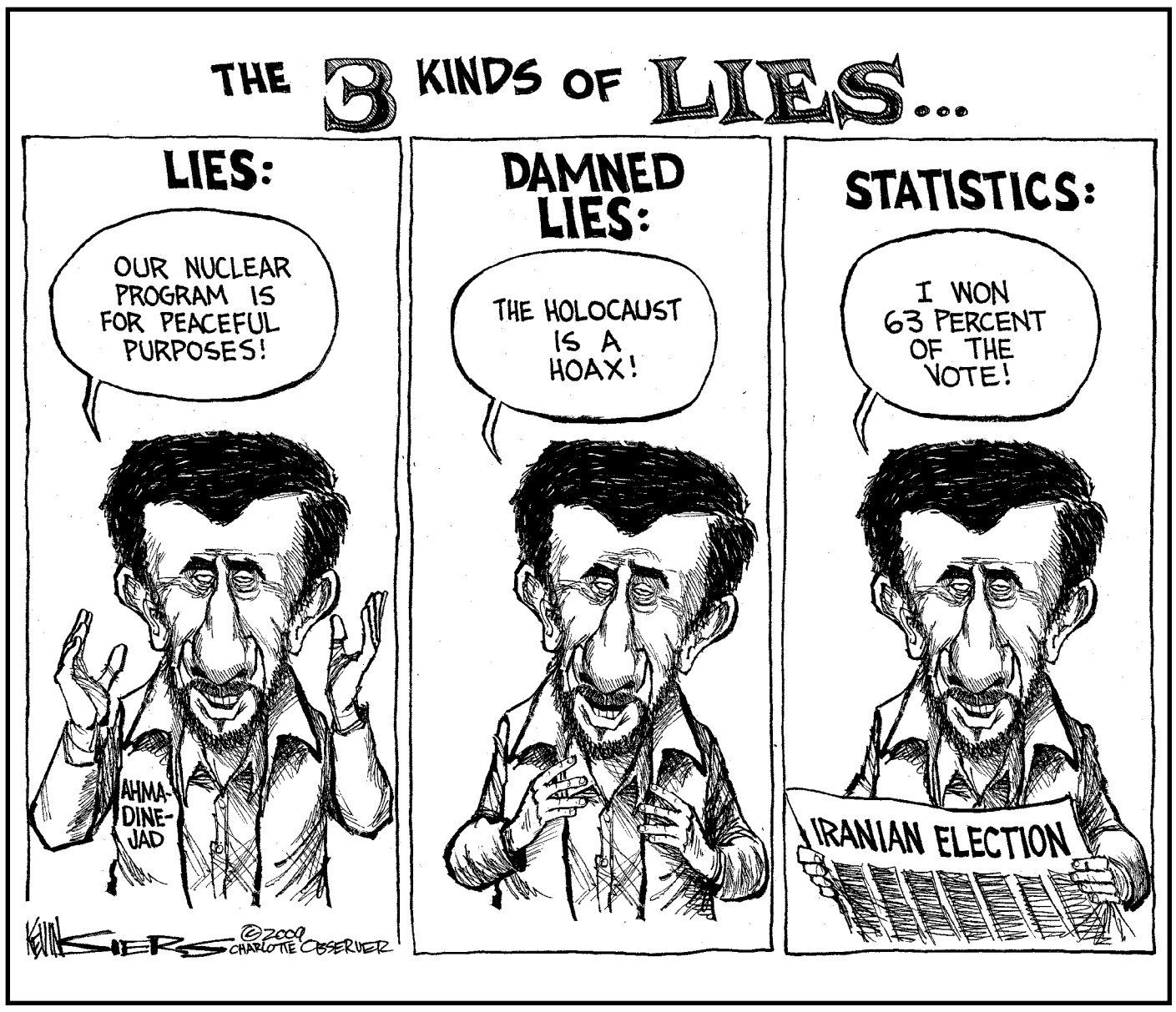


He's more than a man

By RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC. They can be contacted at biz_results@yahoo.com.

This article is dedicated to one of the finest fathers in the business. He is steadfast, immovable, loving, trustworthy, and honorable. He is selfless and giving, asking nothing for himself—probably to a fault. He is loyal and firm in his convictions. He is strict in conduct of character, yet full of a sense of adventure for life. He is a monument of strength to his family. He is my friend, my husband, and the father of my children. He is the architect of our great masterpiece—our family. Without you, Rik, our world would crumble. You have truly created a legacy that will stand the test of time. May the blessings of fatherhood continue to bring honor and fulfillment to you all the days of your life. You are more than a man to me and deserve more than one day of the year to be honored, but we figure if we make it one doozy of a day, you will need 11 months to recover—unless I can't find the credit card. Happy Father's Day (x's 7 + 2 Grandbabies)!

I would like pay tribute to all dads this Father's Day. The roles of a father have changed a lot the last several years, but the need for a father has not changed. We have gone from fathers being outside the delivery room, to being in the delivery room, not only coaching, but in some cases being able to help deliver the baby and cut the cord. We have gone from fathers being the main provider to some becoming stay at home dads or taking an active role in sharing the responsibilities with mom while she is at work. We see more dads at PTA meetings and daycare events. We see dads in our community volunteering their time to make sporting events possible to all our children on island. We see our dads leave and go to war to protect our country and our lives. We see dads every day working hard to make a better life for the ones they love. It takes more than a man to provide for a family. It takes more than the title of "father" to raise a child. It takes the selfless acts of love to do what no ordinary man or father could ever do.

A few months ago, I received an e-mail from my daughter sharing a web site that she thought I would be interested in. The web site is titled "He's More Than A Man." It was started by Maria Kizirian. She is a talented musician and wrote and sang the song that is played on the site. She started this web site as a dedication to our "unsung heroes," the men in our lives. It is a place to honor those men that have given so much to making a better life for those that they love. They often bear the brunt of our frustration at the end of a hard day and their acts of sacrifice and love are often forgotten and unnoticed.

I am pleased to share with you a place where there are still those in our society that share the good in their life. With today's problems in the world, we are constantly being bombarded by all the bad happening around us. It is so easy to get caught up in the cycle of negative thinking and complain about all that is wrong in our life that we forget all that is right. This is a place to go to remind ourselves, and the man we love, all the good that we share together. The men in our lives need to know more than ever that their efforts are appreciated in these difficult times.

There are many stories in our history books that tell the tale of great victories won on the battlefield, of new and exciting inventions, the discovery of new lands, powerful leaders, and adventure in unusual parts of the world. But there is no greater story told than that of the bravery, sacrifice, determination, and the adventure of a father. A child's first history lessons come from the voice and example of his dad. He learns from his father to face his fears with courage in the battles of life. He sits at his dad's side as his father shares in the excitement of the newest high tech video game. His daughter listens with intent as he tells of the places he has visited and seen, and the leaders he has met. They talk about the great adventures that they will have together—and before you know it, they are all grown up.

Fathers often think that they are forgotten once the teenage years come and when they begin to leave home, but I have heard too many stories told, not those in history books, but of those moments in time with their dad and the things they learned. Long after your memory begins to fade, the details remain vibrant and alive to the child that experienced it. "What a father says to his children is not heard by the world, but it will be heard for posterity." *Jean Paul Richter*

We give tribute to all the fathers in today's world and the influence of good that you wield for a brighter future.

This Father's Day, I hope that many of you ladies will take the time to brag on the man of your life and the father he is to your children. It would be a great tribute for him to read on Father's Day. Just go to hesmorethanaman.com and share your man's story of his greatest victories and adventures and why he is more than a man to you.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Letters to the Editor

The right thing to do

We, the parents of the team Patriots, are very proud and happy that our children are the champions for the 2009 Junior League. We are also pleased to learn that six of our kids have been selected for the All-Star Team. The success of our children as baseball players and the success of their team as the four-time champions were all made possible by the hard work, dedication, and excellent coaching and management of coach Manny Sablan and team manager Thelma Mizer. The Patriot team members wouldn't have made it to where they are without these two very important individuals.

As much as we are very proud of our kids' success by making it to the championship (four times in a row), we are also saddened that Coach Manny Sablan was never selected to continue his excellent coaching of them for the All-Star Team. As parents of most of the All Star Team members, we felt great disappointment that the times and efforts that coach Manny sacrificed and invested in our kids (with excellent results to show for) were never recognized by the Baseball Committee.

In the four years that Coach Manny Sablan has coached the Patriots, the results were outstanding. The Patriots were the champions four years in a row. Coach Manny has earned the respect of all the players' parents by his continued commitment and patience with our children. All of our children look up to him with great respect, love, and guidance. He has instilled wonderful values in our children that we appreciate and are very certain that our children will continue to use throughout their lives, be it on or off the baseball fields.

These are but a few of the great values Coach Manny has instilled in our children: To be the best, you must always play your best; Practice, practice, and more practice; Always show up to practices and games early; Learn from your mistake and move on, no put downs; Foul language is not tolerated; Excellent sportsmanship; Team prayer before each game; Every player is responsible for taking care of the teams equipment; Show appreciation and recognition to fans and parents; and to respect and care for each other. Even when he's busy instilling these wonderful values on our children, he always kept them focused on their team goal, which was to become the champions.

We, the parents, and our children, joined together to express our great disappointment and dismay with the decision of the Baseball Committee, which is in charge of selecting the coaches who will lead the All-Star Team. We truly believe that with coach Manny Sablan's excellent coaching records, he should have been or be the first one to be selected by the committee to lead the coaching team.

We can proudly boast that there is no other coach that we know of that holds such an excellent coaching record such as Coach Manny's. In addition to his excellent coaching records are his great commitment and willingness to continue coaching our children despite the Baseball Committee's unwillingness to recognize his greatness as a coach each year.

Coach Manny is most knowledgeable on all rules and regulations pertaining to Little Leagues. Others seek his counsel when in doubt and he has never hesitated to share his knowledge. As extremely appreciative and grateful parents and players, we would like to know the selection process being used by the Baseball Committee when selecting coaches. With that in mind, we would like the Committee to answer our following questions:

1. How did the committee make its selections or what criteria were used during the selection process? We feel that the committee is biased against Coach Manny for some reason and we are basing it on the Committee's past and present selectors.

2. What do the past and presently selected coaches have that Coach Manny does not have more of? He appeared to be lacking something in the eyes of the committee to have never been selected as one of the All-Star Team coaches. For the life of us, we can't understand why. If we're talking excellent records, then we believe Coach Manny's records far exceeds any other coach's records. If we are talking about knowledge, we believe Coach Manny is well versed and quite knowledgeable in Little League rules and regulations. If we're talking commitment, then his four consecutive years of coaching the Patriots should prove his commitment. If we're talking experience, then coach Manny's record should speak for itself. What does it take for Coach Manny to be recognized and selected? Does he need to cut his hair? Grow a mustache? Shave his eyebrows? What?!

3. We, parents, and our children feel great sadness for Coach Manny. We have such great faith in Coach Manny's ability to coach the All-Star Team. We believe that his great love of coaching, expansive knowledge on Little League rules, proven capabilities and quiet strength, are just the perfect combination needed to give our All-Star Team the edge to making it to the World Series and maybe even coming home with the Championship Trophy.

4. We question the Baseball Committee's commitment to our young and hopeful players. We are wondering whether the committee is really committed to leading these young players to making it to the World Series. If the Committee is truly committed then it can do no less than selecting the best coach we have on island, and that coach should be none other than coach Manny Sablan. If the Committee is not willing to commit to the All-Star Team's success, then it's time to revamp the Committee and put in place those members that are willing to give their commitments to our young players' success. Selecting people they know to go only for the trip should be a thing of the past. So to each committee member we challenge you to answer this: Do you really want our young, hopeful and extremely talented players to make it to the World Series or are you all just in it for the fun of it? If you answer that you want the players to succeed, which just so happens to be the right answer, then we urge you to consider taking it one step further and select Manny Sablan to coach the All-Star Team.

We the parents, players, and fans are asking the board members of the Saipan Baseball Committee to please, please, please put all your personal prejudices aside and instead put the success of the All-Star Team's ahead of everything else by reconsidering and selecting Mr. Manny Sablan to coach the All-Star Team. It's the right thing to do!

Josephine Rabauliman
Team Mom, Team Patriots
Chalan Laulau, Saipan

Governance at PSS

It took many years for a form of governance and retribution to arrive at Tinian Jr/High. The public would not believe the horror stories I have heard and I'm sure there are many more horror stories of students and staff that I don't know about. We have some great principals in the CNMI who respect their students and teachers and treat them fairly. But like any organization the size of PSS there will always be a few (4 -1 = 3 remaining) bad apples who will lead with vengeance, personal preference, and fear tactics.

The problem is the bad principals have been able to survive for over a decade because the governance system of PSS is not really a governance system and that is what every parent with a child attending school should be concerned about. Parents really need to get some answers to these critical questions. How do we parents know if a principal is doing a good job? Who evaluates a principal and how is the principal evaluated? What checks and balance are in place for principals and their decisions? Why is the principal the only one submitting formal reports about their schools? Is the principal really going to say she/he is doing a bad job? There are more but this should be enough to make you say *hmmmm*!

Kudos to the Commissioner for having the political will and fortitude to do the right thing and for those who don't think that politics breaches the autonomy of PSS, this should be an eye opener for you. It is almost common knowledge among most veteran educators in the CNMI that the only reason Tinian's principal managed to keep her job was because of her political clout. But politics runs even deeper within the confines of our educational system and I will tell you about that at a later day and at the appropriate time. But I will say there are at least three more principals who have literally done some of the same things as the Tinian principal when it comes to the treatment of employees. But I can assure the public that it is just a matter of time for them, now that it is obvious accountability of principals needs to be improved. Just because a school is accredited doesn't mean the school has a good principal because bad things at schools in the CNMI are never exposed to WASC out of pure, unadulterated fear. The penalty for exposing problems and holding principals accountable is non-renewal of your contract without cause. This is how the principal on Tinian was able to survive for so many years because any teacher or staff who posed a check on her decisions or actions was simply eliminated and parents were just simply ignored until they gave up.

Just imagine if those parents on Tinian had decided not to fight for their child. The parents on Tinian represented the very essence of a lesson that I teach about the two keys needed to get our government to do the right thing: informed and active citizens. The Federalist believed that if every citizen was informed and active, our government would remain under a constant and vigilant check by the citizens. Those informed and active parents on Tinian place a vital *check* on the principal that the commissioner had to *balance* fairly, which proved the point the founders of America were making in the Federalist Papers. We need more informed and active parents to be more involved in the inner workings of our educational system and, more importantly, we need a complete governance system for the Public Education System because the Commissioner can't police the entire system.

I just wonder how many "I told you so's" will I have to say before PSS really starts to listen the first time before it gets ugly. Kudos to the parents, your children can be very proud of you and I am so thankful that you acknowledged the problem with your principal. You have performed a valuable public service by standing up and doing something to get the entire student body and staff some *due process* and some long overdue relief. *The principles of governance dictate that whenever accountability checks are applied properly under fair conditions with the intent to find the truth or what works best, the results will always be favorable to the system or organization and those affected by the decision or act*. Guess who said that? (esorbmA ttenneB).

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

Correcting a mistake

I must respond to my brother Jack in Portland, Oregon. I am a registered voter so, what, I'm to be blame for the actions of those guys up there too, for the laws they passed that doesn't help us or benefit us at all. I know Cinta is doing anything or everything to help the local community obtain jobs in the private sectors, but she can't do it alone, she will need some assistance from those guys up there, who just sit there and do nothing to address these problems we're having right now. They're the ones that allowed alien workers to transfer to other jobs, taking away jobs opportunities from locals. I'm not going to be responsible for somebody's actions, everybody is held accountable according to his or her own actions. So it's like this, brother, if I'm going to be responsible, I'm going to take some matters into my own hands. This coming elections, I will correct that mistake. *Ila schagh bwiibwii,* thank you.

Patrick R. Litulumar
Falughulo, Saipan

Prioritize local hiring

If the Commonwealth is to grow and prosper, it can no longer afford to be the employment agency for the entire developing world. Hats off to the businesses that do hire and retain local employees. They are contributing to the future of the islands. A foreign employee in the CNMI generally, upon receiving their salary, deducts what they need for survival and remits the lion's share back to their home country; the money is not spent and circulated on the islands. I have seen far too many promising young people leave the islands for supposedly greener pastures because the businesses on island adhered to outdated hiring practices. I say it's high time that businesses start obeying the law and hiring qualified local candidates and paying them a living wage, or at least providing to them the benefits that are accorded to guest workers.

Rick Vaughn
Chicago, IL

Open letter to Bill

In reference to your column about bankruptcy for the CNMI government, the first and most obvious places to cut are the various "Department of __ Affairs," you fill in the blanks as they are all a colossal waste of money. The Saipan Mayor's Office is the next joke. Good grief, I could go on a long time with this but you get the idea.

Frank Oliver
Sahuarita, AZ

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°

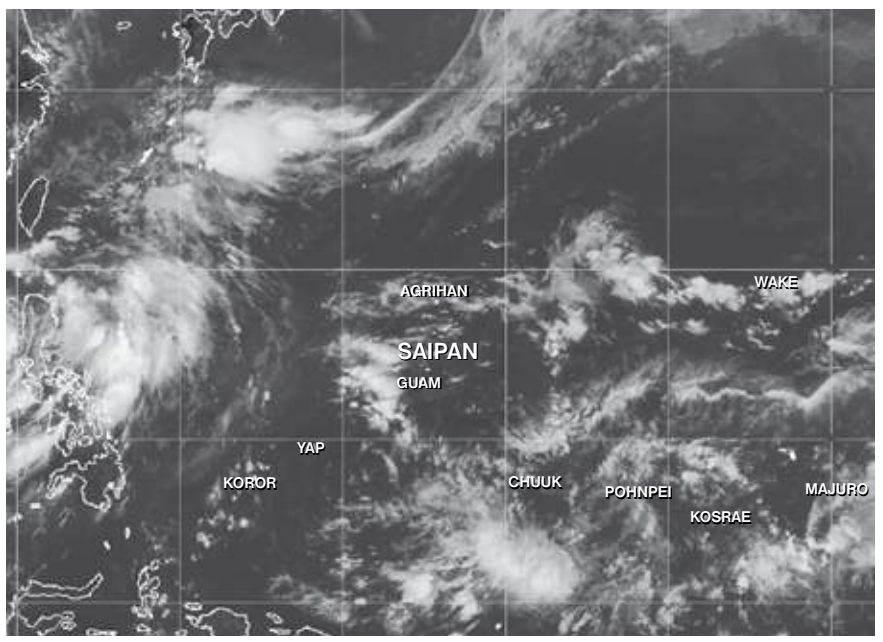
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲87	▼77
Palau	Showers	▲87	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲85	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲88	▼77
Pohnpei	Thundershowers	▲84	▼75
Kosrae	Showers	▲87	▼78
Majuro	Rain	▲84	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲56	▼44
Beijing	Showers	▲81	▼69
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲87	▼78
Honolulu	Cloudy	▲83	▼75
London	Partly Sunny	▲68	▼48
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲80	▼62
Manila	Rain	▲83	▼77
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲61	▼48
Miami	Thundershowers	▲89	▼78
New York	Rain	▲69	▼62
Osaka	Showers	▲80	▼68
Paris	Showers	▲76	▼54
Pusan	Partly Sunny	▲84	▼69
Rome	Sunny	▲87	▼66
Salem	Cloudy	▲77	▼53
San Francisco	Sunny	▲76	▼56
Seoul	Cloudy	▲80	▼64
Tokyo	Showers	▲74	▼65
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼69

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough and diffluent flow aloft is producing showers and thunderstorms south and southwest of Chuuk between the equator and 4N from 144E to 153E. Trade wind convergence and diffluent flow aloft is producing a line of showers and thunderstorms west of Guam and Saipan between 11N and 15N from 140E to 143E and between 18N and 20N from 156E to 170E near Wake Island. A trough running from EQ165E to 3N162E and trade-wind convergence east of it are producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 100 miles of a line from 1N164E to 5N173E within 80 miles of 8N173E and within 80 miles of 7N179E. These areas are southeast of Kosrae and include the Marshall Islands.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
2:40 AM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
9:58 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
4:31 PM Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
9:21 PM Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:47 AM	6:49 PM
Friday	5:47 AM	6:49 PM
Saturday	5:48 AM	6:49 PM
Sunday	5:48 AM	6:50 PM
Monday	5:48 AM	6:50 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:16 AM	2:18 PM
Friday	1:58 AM	3:05 PM
Saturday	2:47 AM	4:08 PM
Sunday	3:42 AM	5:13 PM
Monday	4:44 AM	6:20 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 9, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7

SAIPAN-GUAM

CO9317	4:30am	5:20am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1, 7
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	4, 5
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

CO9598	2:20am	2:50am	5, 6
CO9312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-PALAU (ROR)

CO893	5:50pm	6:50pm	3, 5
CO953	6:50pm	7:50pm	1, 7
CO953	7:35pm	10:05pm	2, 4, 6

PALAU (ROR)-MANILA

CO893	7:35pm	9:10pm	3, 5

GUAM-MANILA

CO893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via ROR
CO933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR111	6:00am	7:45am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW99	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW78	9:00am	2:05pm	Daily via NGO
NW75	3:50pm	6:25am	Daily

GUAM-NARITA (NRT)

CO961	6:35am	9:10am	Daily
NW83	8:00am	1:55pm	Daily via KIX
CO6	12:00pm	2:45pm	Daily
NW73	4:05pm	7:00pm	Daily
CO963	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	1
OZ119	4:20am	7:00am	4,6

GUAM-OSAKA (KIX)

NW83	8:00am	10:45am	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW78	9:00am	11:40am	Daily

GUAM-NAGOYA (NGO)

CO971	7:45am	10:30am	Daily
NW23	4:10pm	7:05pm	Daily
CO975	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	excl 1
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	1 via KIX
OZ119	4:20am	11:20am	4, 6 via KIX

SEOUL (ICN)-HONG KONG

OZ721	9:05am	11:45am	Daily
OZ723	7:45pm	10:30pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-MANILA

OZ701	8:35am	11:25am	Daily
OZ703	7:50pm	10:50pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

CO9598	3:25am	4:00am	5, 6
CO9312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

CO9316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
CO9598	2:20am	4:00am	5, 6 via ROP
CO9596	7:00am	5:00am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily x6
CO9312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 4, 5, 7
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

CO9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1, 7

PALAU (ROR)-GUAM

CO954	1:10am	5:30am	3, 5, 7
CO954	1:45am	4:40am	1, 2
CO892	2:35am	5:30am	4, 6

MANILA-PALAU (ROR)

CO892	10:10pm	1:50am+1	3, 5

MANILA-GUAM

CO892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3, 5 via ROR
CO934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR110	10:00pm	4:00am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW76	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW77	6:30pm	1:40am+1	Daily via NGO
NW100	7:50pm	12:30am+1	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-GUAM

NW74	10:00am	2:50pm	Daily
CO962	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily
CO7	3:50pm	8:25pm	Daily
NW84	6:20pm	1:40am+1	Daily
CO964	8:25pm	1:00am+1	Daily
NW82	8:30pm	1:05am+1	4
NW82	8:30pm	1:20am+1	X 4

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:55pm	2:20am+1	3, 5, 6

OSAKA (KIX)-GUAM

NW84	9:05pm	1:40am+1	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW77	9:10pm	1:40am	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-GUAM

NW24	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
CO970	11:30am	4:30pm	Daily
CO972	8:25pm	12:55am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 5, 6 via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	excl 7

HONG KONG-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ724	12:30am	5:05am	Daily
OZ722	1:15pm	5:45pm	Daily

MANILA-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ702	12:45pm	5:45pm	Daily
OZ704	11:50pm	4:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

PSS to lawmakers: Give us $38M

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Public School System financial consultant Ed Tenorio, left, gestures as he explains PSS' proposed Fiscal Year 2010 budget to the members of the House Ways and Means Committee yesterday. Listening in are Board of Education vice chair Herman Guerrero, center, and Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Education officials yesterday asked the House Ways and Means Committee to approve the proposed $38 million budget for the Public School System in Fiscal Year 2010 which they say is already a big drop from the $52 million PSS originally planned for.

PSS' revised budget proposal is similar to the one proposed by the Executive Branch for FY 2010, which starts on Oct. 1.

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan told lawmakers that the $52 million originally proposed by PSS would not have been realistic given the CNMI's financial position but the system is also obligated to take care of some 11,000 students.

"I plead with you, Mr. Chairman and members of the Ways and Means Committee, for your support to the CNMI Public School System's budget proposal at $38 million, which will facilitate the cost of the personnel, utilities, and all others that will include general repairs and maintenance, school supplies and materials, fuel, educational programmatic materials and needs," Sablan told lawmakers.

House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Ray N. Yumul (R-Saipan), Rep. Victor B. Hocog (Ind-Rota), Rep. David Apatang (R-Saipan), Rep. Justo Quitugua (D-Saipan), Rep. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), Rep. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan) and House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) expressed inclination to support the $38 million budget for PSS.

Fortunate

PSS financial consultant Ed Tenorio said of the $38 million proposed budget, $31.5 million is personnel cost, while $3.4 million is for utilities payments and $2.3 million for general operating expenses.

The rest are for fuel/lubricant, $300,000; repair and maintenance of the aging bus fleet, $150,000; rental space at the Retirement Fund building, $12,000; and communications, $110,000.

"We're fortunate that the governor's submission mirrored our submission," Tenorio told lawmakers.

He, however, said PSS' personnel cost will be impacted if the Retirement Fund contribution of 11 percent will be raised to 36.7 percent as recommended by an actuarial study.

Board of Education vice chair Herman Guerrero said PSS buses need repairs, especially the upholstery.

Education officials also said the $44.4 million in stimulus funds for PSS will be a tremendous help to the system.

PSS federal programs coordinator Tim Thornburg said over $6 million of the federal stimulus funds will be used for energy projects, including the retrofitting of lights and air conditioners to save on power costs, as well as an upgrade to the bus center in Lower Base.

The money, which will come from the state fiscal stabilization fund, is the CNMI's share in the $268 million provided by the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act to outlying areas. But Sablan told lawmakers that PSS has not received the actual money yet.

Sablan, however, warned that after the federal stimulus money is given, the Legislature cannot budget PSS lower than the 2006 funding level.

Per-child cost

At the hearing, Sablan presented the PSS budget for the last five years. In FY 2005, PSS received $25,801,787 from federal grants and $37,230,342 from the local general fund for a total of over $63 million.

In FY 2006, total funding increased to over $66.5 million—over $29 million from federal funds and over $37 million from local funds.

The funding dropped to over $65 million in FY 2007, of which over $28.6 million came from federal funds and over $36.7 million came from local funds.

In FY 2008, federal funding increased to over $33.9 million and local funding to over $35.8 million, for a total of over $69.8 million.

Federal and local funding dropped to over $65 million in 2009. Of this amount, over $30 million came from federal grants, and $34.6 million came from local general fund.

"Over the past five years, we have been doing a lot more for less, which has been stressful and exhausting but nevertheless, we have seen gains with out student outcomes, teacher quality and school improvements," Sablan said.

She said in the last three years, the average public school cost per child in the United States is at $9,627 compared to the CNMI's $3,209.

"Even if we combine our other resource received through the U.S. government which totals to approximately $5,741, the CNMI cost per pupil is still below, at an average of $3,886," said Sablan.

BEH issues sanitary inspection results, grades

The Bureau of Environment Health conducted sanitary inspections, during the month of May 2009 on the following Retails, Eating and Drinking establishments and their grades are as follow:

"Grade A"
- Capitol Hill Market & Butcher Shop, Capitol Hill
- Mark's Produce Vendor, Chalan Kanoa
- JG Sablan Water & Ice Manufacture, Garapan
- Island Infusion Wholesale, Puerto Rico
- 999 Market, Chalan Piao
- Sky Garden Snack Bar, Airport Int'l
- Barny's Pizza, Susupe
- Food Manufacturing, Koblerville
- JWS Air Conditioning & Ref. Wholesale, San Jose
- Best Market, Chalan Kanoa
- Kinpachi Retail, Garapan
- Colmar Restaurant, Garapan
- Stella's Catering, Chalan Kanoa
- MZ Joy Market, Chalan Kanoa
- 101 Store, As Lito
- Ming Li Store & Packing room, Garapan
- Taga Mart, San Vicente
- Shell Mini Mart, Airport Road
- PIC Boutiki, San Antonio
- Mobile Kagman Service Station Mart, Kagman
- Spicy Thai Noodles Place, San Antonio
- Thailand Food Store, San Antonio
- Chalan Kiya Service Station Mart, Chalan Kiya
- San Jose Beach Rd. Service Station, San Jose
- Wild Bill's Bar & Grill, Garapan
- Deng Shi Corp. Catering, Garapan
- World Vita Store, Chalan Laulau
- LA Tax Free Shop, Chalan Laulau
- New K Store, As Matuis
- Charco Mart II & BBQ stand, Garapan
- Grand Market & Butcher Shop, Lower Navy Hill
- Pizza Hut Restaurant, Gualo Rai
- Gold's Gym Retail, Garapan
- Classic Design I Retail, Koblerville
- Island Mart, Garapan
- Ginza Lounge Bar, Garapan
- Hyatt Regency Hotel Main Kitchen, Garapan
- Hyatt Regency Hotel Splash Pool Bar, Garapan
- Hyatt Regency Hotel Miyako Japanese Restaurant, Garapan
- Hyatt Regency Hotel Skipper Beach Bar, Garapan
- Hyatt Regency Hotel Lobby Lounge Bar, Garapan
- Hyatt Regency Hotel Giovanni Restaurant, Garapan
- Hyatt Regency Hotel Kili Terrace Restaurant, Garapan
- Hyatt Regency Hotel DJ's Corner Gift Shop, Garapan
- Hyatt Regency Hotel Employees's Cafeteria
- Hyatt Regency Hotel Bakery Shop, Garapan
- Hyatt Regency Hotel Teppan Yaki Restaurant, Garapan
- Hyatt Regency Hotel Cocktail Lounge, Garapan
- Fiesta Resort Hotel Teppan Yaki Restaurant, Garapan
- Fiesta Resort Hotel Bund Restaurant & Bar, Garapan
- Fiesta Resort Hotel Bakery Shop, Garapan
- Fiesta Resort Hotel Mai Restaurant, Garapan
- Fiesta Resort Hotel World Café, Garapan
- Fiesta Resort Hotel Ocean View, Garapan
- Fiesta Resort Hotel Chamber Bar, Garapan
- Fiesta Resort Hotel Employee's Cafeteria, Garapan
- Fiesta Resort Hotel Ex. Floor Lounge, Garapan
- Fiesta Resort Hotel Main Kitchen, Garapan
- Fiesta Resort Hotel Kiosk Snack Bar & Gift Shop, Garapan
- Fiesta Resort Hotel Managaha Restaurant, Managaha
- Kan Pacific Hotel Kafe Mariana, Marpi
- Kan Pacific Hotel Sushi Bar Gekka, Marpi
- Kan Pacific Hotel La Stella Restaurant, Marpi
- Kan Pacific Hotel Gift Shop, Marpi
- Kan Pacific Hotel Puduo King Café, Marpi

Grade "B"
- New Chang Ming Store, Garapan
- The Water Company, Lower Base
- Yong An Store, Garapan

Grade "C"
- None

Establishments ordered close due to serious violations of health and sanitation standards:
- Crystal Water Manufacture, Papago *9/19/07
- AAX 939 (Bolin Xue)- il legal roadside *11/05/07
- ABY 048 *11/5/07
- Jin Joo Restaurant, Chalan Kanoa *12/19/07
- Xu Jin Luan ABA 380 *7/10/08
- Pine Tree Restaurant, DanDan *1/13/09
- Twinkle Brite Water Company, Chalan Piao *2/4/09 **2/5/09
- Huang Zheng Corp, roadside vendor ACA 238 *2/19/09 **2/26/09
- Yeon Bean II Restaurant, San Antonio *3/11/09 **4/21/09

*(facility closure date) **(establishment re-opening date).
There may have been changes to these grades since this information was released. For updated information, call the Bureau of Environment Health at 664-4870 or fax 664-4871. ***(PR)***

Biomed tech-pharmacist tandem wins 3rd Car Rally

After finding their way across the island through a grueling 43.2-mile course riddled with all sorts of trick questions and scavenger hunt along the way, a biomedical technologist and pharmacist duo beat 15 contestants to win this year's *Beach Road Magazine* Car Rally.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
As frustrating and challenging this year's car rally was to the participants, Peter Bonser and Lorraine Liwiski, center, were surprised to be proclaimed champions of the 3rd *Beach Road Magazine* Car Rally. Bonser and Liwiski received their prizes from car rally master Susan Marchitti, right, at an awards ceremony held at the Oleai Beach Bar & Grill on June 14.

Garnering a total score of 941 points, Peter Bosner and Lorraine Liwiski of Car No. 11 topped this year's car rally that attracted 16 entrants.

At the awards ceremony held at Oleai Beach Bar & Grill Sunday, Bosner and Liwiski received $200 and a gift certificate for an hour of photo session with ace photographer Hideo Honda.

Bosner told *BRM*, "It was a great, real fun. It was nice to meet a bunch of people from Saipan and see some sights we have never seen before." He said car rally master Susan Marchitti did a great job in setting it up.

His navigator, Liwiski, wasn't expecting their team would win. "It was a lot of fun and I am totally shocked that we won first prize. We were arguing the entire time whether or not we got the answers right, whether or not the time was right. It was a lot of fun and we'll do it again."

Car No. 13 with Koblerville residents Andrew Moses as driver and Anna Manibusan as navigator finished second with 932 points. Moses and Manibusan won $150 and a Samsung keyboard from I-teck.

In an interview after the awards ceremony, Moses said, "It was a fun experience and I really enjoyed it. I got to see smaller villages of the island. It was a good challenge."

Asked by *BRM* if they will join again next year, Moses said he will and will try to win it next time.

Another surprise winner is the Bowen couple composed of NMC Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service agriculture consultant Lee Bowen and his wife Kathleen who came in third with 924 points. They won $100 and a mobile phone with a $20 load courtesy of Docomo Pacific.

Bowen said, "I think Susan did an excellent job with establishing everything she had done. And any mistake she may have made I think she did on purpose because she made us think. But otherwise it is an excellent thing and should be done again in the future."

His wife hailed the car rally master's efforts in designing the difficult course saying it was both "frustrating" and "challenging."

She even commented in jest, "We didn't get a divorce."

Those who did not win didn't go home empty handed, as each losing team took home two prizes each.

Car rally master Susan Marchitti thanked all the participants who joined this year. ***(PR)***

Saipan student inducted into Phi Kappa Phi

Jonathan Aguon of Saipan has been initiated into the Phi Kappa Phi Chapter at San Diego State University, where he is studying accounting. Aguon is among approximately 30,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year.

Founded in 1897 at the University of Maine, Phi Kappa Phi is the nations oldest, largest and most selective all-discipline honor society. The Society has chapters on nearly 300 campuses in the United States, Puerto Rico and the Philippines.

Membership in Phi Kappa Phi is by invitation and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors, having at least 72 semester hours, are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

Since 1897, more than 1 million members have been initiated into Phi Kappa Phi, which is headquartered in Baton Rouge, LA. Notable members include former president Jimmy Carter, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, NASA Astronaut Wendy Lawrence, writer John Grisham, opera singer Renee Fleming, journalist and broadcaster Deborah Norville and Netscape founder James Barksdale.

The society has awarded approximately $12.7 million since the inception of its awards program in 1932. ***(PR)***

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW09-IFB-019

PUERTO RICO DUMP FINAL CLOSURE SAIPAN, MP

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) and the Division of Solid Waste Management, are soliciting sealed Bids for construction, of the Puerto Rico Dump closure system, on the island of Saipan.

The project package will be available on or after May 27, 2009, at Pacific Quick Print & Post, Chalan Pale Arnold, SAipan. A non-refundable payment to Pacific Quick Print & Post, amount to be determined, is required for each set. All interested bidders are also required to include an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid package. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, however, Article 7 "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 **is not available** to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and serivices on this project shall be paid the current minimum wage as required by CNMI and Federal Law.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on June 5, 2009, 10:0 a.m. local time at the Solid Waste Management Division's Lower Base Transfer Station, Lower Base.. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site and condition of the project. All questions regarding the project must be submitted in writing no later than June 10, 2009 to **Mr. Blas T. Mafnas,** Acting Director, Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Refuse Transfer Station, or fax to (670) 322-2762.

Sealed bids shall be marked with the name of the submitter and the title "**Puerto Rico Dump Final Closure, DPW-09-IFB-019**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and six (6) copies of Bids must be submitted no later than 2:00 p.m. local time, June 22, 2009 to the Director of Procurement and Supply, P.O. Box 10008, Cnmi, Saipan, MP 96950. Bidders located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than June 22, 2009 and must be transmitted via Facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or va e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and six (6) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than June 22, 2009, and must be received no later than July 1, 2009. Failure to submit the required number of sets may be gount for rejection.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, July 2, 2009, However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on June 22, 2009.

A bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Clerk or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". For Bid Bonds, surety companies must hold a Certificate of Authority from the U.S. Department of the Treasury as an acceptable surety to the Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment Bonds must hold a Certificate of Authority from the U.S. Department of the Treasury as an acceptable surety and must be authorized to conduct business in the CNMI.

Performance time for completion of the project is three hundred sixty five **(365)** working days upon issuance of official written Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will assessed as provided for in the Bid Specification Package.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs (DOI/OIA). Contract award is contingent upon funding approval of DOI/OIA.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

DIEGO B. SONGSONG
Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement and Supply

Palauans divided over their countrymen fighting for US

By JOHN M. GLIONNA
LOS ANGELES TIMES

KOROR, Palau—They carried Sgt. Jasper Obakrairur's body home Tuesday in a casket draped with an American flag for a service held inside a domed government complex modeled on the U.S. Capitol.

Obakrairur wasn't American, but a 26-year-old native of this Pacific island nation. He joined the U.S. Army five years ago, inspired by a sense of duty and a plan for a better life.

Known as Jazz by island friends, and as Sgt. OB by fellow soldiers, he was killed by a roadside bomb June 1 in a town outside Kabul, Afghanistan.

His funeral, held on a morning of flash showers that alternated with stifling tropical sun, symbolized the division here over the fact that young Palauans are serving—and dying—in the military of a nation not their own.

Watching the funeral and the casket-carrying soldiers with their precise movements, Lory Ngemaes felt torn.

"We're proud one of our own fought for America," she said. "But I told my 13-year-old son, 'You're not going. You are a Palauan.'"

In recent years, far-flung Pacific islands have suffered an outsized share of war casualties. Hundreds of their young have joined the U.S. military, often as a way out of isolation and poverty.

Guam, the Northern Marianas, the Federated States of Micronesia and Palau have lost 32 men and women since 2003. A comparative fatality rate would stagger many U.S. communities.

Obakrairur is the fourth Palauan to be killed in conflict and the second to be buried here on the island, 4,500 miles southwest of Hawaii. The republic of 20,000 residents has 200 fighting men and women in U.S. uniforms, according to Palauan officials.

A former American territory with close ties to Washington, Palau has tried to demonstrate its value as a U.S. ally. In a move hailed by the Obama administration, President Johnson Toribiong this month agreed to accept 13 Chinese Uighurs from the Guantanamo Bay prison.

The decision to accept the Uighurs has further divided a populace already split by the willingness of some Palauans to fight under the U.S. flag.

Many endure each loss with stoicism, reasoning that U.S. servicemen lost their lives here. Palau was a major World War II battle site, and ships that sank during the fighting still litter its lagoons.

"The Palauans who join the military are considered heroes here," said Fermin Meriang, editor of the local *Island Times*.

But some bristle at the presence of U.S. military recruiters, including former Palauan President Tommy Remengesau Jr.

"Our soldiers have served side by side with American. Now another has been killed—blown up in a roadside bomb. Isn't that the ultimate sacrifice?" he said. "I think Palau has done its duty."

At a bar in Koror, a woman challenged an American, saying her son was stationed at the same Ft. Drum, N.Y., Army base where Obakrairur had received training.

"Why are we fighting your wars, for freedom? We already have freedom in Palau," she said angrily. "If my son dies, I am going to kill you and all the Americans who come here."

U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Donald J. Goldhorn, who spoke at the service, told *The Times* that many small islands in the region had suffered high losses.

"But it will not deter people from this incredibly patriotic part of the world," he said.

Raphael Ngirmang, a stocky white-haired Marine Corps veteran who is now one of Palau's top two tribal chiefs, said Palau owes a debt to the U.S.

"We're out here on an island in the middle of nowhere," said Ngirmang, a 27-year veteran who served in Vietnam. "The U.S. is responsible for our national defense. So we reciprocate. We may be a small island, but we've got a big heart."

The night before, islanders lined a darkened harbor causeway, lighting candles and waving American and Palauan flags.

They were waiting for the U.S. military plane to arrive with Obakrairur's remains, waiting for their boy to come home.

In the tightknit island culture, many people knew Obakrairur. He left Palau to attend college in Hawaii, where he joined the U.S. Army in 2004.

His father, Demei Obakrairur, told the *Island Times* that "when he spoke to us, he told us he's 21 already so he made up his mind."

Jason Vaughn, a soldier in Obakrairur's company, said there were two roadside explosions in the Afghan village of Nerkh. The first killed three soldiers. Obakrairur died in a second blast while en route to help injured comrades.

"The only good thing is that he didn't suffer," Vaughn said.

He said Obakrairur was a dedicated soldier whose Palauan accent was often difficult to understand "when he shouted orders at you."

Vaughn accompanied the body to Palau. He and another soldier, Chris Saenz, opened the casket the day before the funeral and noticed that some of Obakrairur's medals were missing. They replaced them with their own as they dusted the lint off his uniform.

On Tuesday, 250 residents crowded into the government complex for the military funeral. They held their hands over their hearts when both the U.S. and Palauan national anthems were performed.

His voice breaking, President Toribiong addressed Obakrairur's parents and sister. "To say thank you is not enough," he said. "But we sincerely appreciate your giving up a son, a Palauan son."

Then the motorcade of 100 cars drove slowly through mangrove jungle to bury Obakrairur in his native village, where the 87-year-old chief paid his last respects to a soldier who died in a modern war.

AP

U.S. honor guards carry the coffin of Sgt. Jasper Obakrairur during a funeral at the Palau Capitol building.

Island Snapshots

SUBMARINE TRAINING

Pacific Subsea Saipan Inc. president Steve Nutting and vice president Jack McClure present a certificate of completion to Ferdinand Andrada after completing the year-long training required for technical certification aboard the company's submarine, Deepstar, which operates in the Saipan lagoon and caters to both tourists and locals. Andrada was one of 14 Pacific Subsea employees who completed the training. The certificate ceremony was followed by a graduation party at Pacific Subsea's lower base facility.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CLASS OF '89 REUNION

The Marianas High School Class of '89 holds a family fun picnic on June 6 at the Minachom Atdao with their respective families, followed by a formal banquet at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan on the evening of June 13.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

GO FOR BROKE!

PFC Francis Pangelinan & PFC Rudeinn Sablan pose for a picture as they wait for their flight back to Kuwait. "Our thoughts and prayers go out to you and the rest of the Echo Company, 100th Bn, 442nd Infantry. Go for broke!" Greetings come from your family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

TOP STUDENT

Tinian High School valedictorian Edward Hofschneider poses with his parents and family after the graduation ceremony held June 10 at the school campus. Hofschneider led over 40 graduating seniors with the Board of Education Award. In his message, Hofschneider emphasized the importance of family and thanked his parents for putting so much hard work into raising him.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONGRATULATIONS!

Happy belated birthday and congratulations to Soledad "Soly" Cabrera on your high school graduation. Greetings and wishes coming out from all your familia and friends!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CRASH TRAINING

A total of 30 police officers from Guam, Saipan, Tinian, and Rota are taking a crash course in traffic accidents and accident-caused homicides this week. The training, led by Kyle Clar, began Monday and will continue throughout next week.

ANITA B. HOFSCHNEIDER

TINIAN TOP 10

Tinian Elementary School's Top 10 students pose with guests and school officials during their promotion ceremony held June 10, 2009 at the school campus. The Top 10 students are Nikki Quichocho (valedictorian), Malena Hofschneider (salutatorian), Aura Lie Quichocho, Pamela Barcinas, Darsha Camacho, Zoe Zinnia Borja, Joerel Henry San Nicolas, Henry Sandergen, Ha'ani Reyes, and Brittany San Nicolas. Tinian Elementary School promoted 34 sixth graders to junior high school.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Business

Obama wants new financial agency for consumers

WASHINGTON (AP)—Setting up a certain fight with big business, President Barack Obama is proposing a new regulatory agency to police lenders and protect consumers in credit, savings and other banking transactions. The consumer agency and a newly empowered Federal Reserve will be two of the central elements of a broad overhaul of the financial regulatory system that the president will announce on Wednesday, officials said.

Obama

Already the nation's central bank, the Federal Reserve would supervise large financial institutions that are considered so big that their failure could undermine America's economy, according to the administration proposal.

But even as the Fed gains new powers, Obama also would transfer some banking authority that now rests with the Federal Reserve and the Treasury Department to the new consumer agency—the Consumer Financial Protection Agency.

"There is going to be streamlining, consolidation and additional overlap so that you don't find people falling through the gaps, whether it's the consumer protection side, the investor protection side, the systemic risk that we need to make sure is avoided," Obama said Tuesday.

The expanded Fed role and the new consumer regulator are likely to be the two main political flash points in the administration's proposal. Many bankers oppose a new consumer protection regulator and many lawmakers in Congress worry the Fed could turn into a too-powerful and independent financial overseer. Friction over those points could slow any major overhaul of banking and market regulations.

In addition to having the Federal Reserve supervise "systemically significant" institutions, Obama will recommend a council of regulators, which would include the Fed, to monitor risk throughout the broader financial system.

The arrangement is designed to prevent any more crashes like those that felled AIG and Lehman Brothers.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Ex-CEO Greenberg defends AIG fund actions

NEW YORK (AP)—Former American International Group Inc. CEO Maurice "Hank" Greenberg will return to the witness stand on Wednesday to continue to defend the actions of a retirement bonus fund that AIG is trying to reclaim in federal court. The insurance giant has accused Greenberg, through a company called Starr International that he controls, of plundering an AIG retirement program composed of $4.3 billion in stock in 2005. The questions being raised at the civil trial in federal court in Manhattan boil down to who controlled the fund, and what its purpose was. In testimony Tuesday, Greenberg said the fund was "not just for AIG employees." Under examination by AIG lawyer Theodore Wells, Greenberg said the fund had many other purposes. One was to allow Starr to control AIG, Greenberg said, and after Greenberg was ousted from his CEO job at AIG in 2005, Starr's voting shareholders "lost control" of AIG.

SEC accord bars Madoff from securities industry

WASHINGTON (AP)—Disgraced money manager Bernard Madoff has been prohibited from working in the securities industry under a settlement with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Madoff is barred from associating with any brokerage or investment firm, according to documents released Tuesday by the SEC that stem from a settlement he reached with the agency in February. The deal eventually could force Madoff to pay a civil fine and return money raised from investors. The civil proceeding is separate form the criminal case against Madoff, who has been jailed since March when he entered a guilty plea to defrauding thousands of investors who lost billions of dollars. He faces up to 150 years in prison, and is scheduled to be sentenced on June 29 in U.S. District Court in Manhattan.

Nation

Source: Same-sex partners to get fed benefits

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama, under growing criticism for not seeking to end the ban on openly gay men and women in the military, is extending benefits to same-sex partners of federal employees.

Obama plans to announce his decision on Wednesday in the Oval Office, a White House official said Tuesday. The official spoke on the condition of anonymity because the president hadn't yet signed the presidential memorandum.

The official said Obama would release more details on Wednesday.

The decision is a political nod to a reliably Democratic voting bloc that in recent weeks has grown frustrated with the White House's slow movement on their priorities.

Several powerful gay fundraisers withdrew their support from a June 25 Democratic National Committee event where Vice President Joe Biden is expected to speak. Their exit came in response to a June 12 Justice Department brief that defended the Defense of Marriage Act, a prime target for gay and lesbian criticism. Justice lawyers argued that the law allowed states to reject marriages performed in other states or countries that defy their own standards.

The legal arguments—including citing incest and sex with minors—sparked rebellion among gay and lesbian activists who had been largely biting their tongues since Obama won election. They had objected to the Rev. Rick Warren's invitation to participate in the inauguration despite his support for repealing gay marriage in California.

Their January protest won the invitation of Episcopal Bishop V. Gene Robinson, whose consecration as the first openly gay bishop divided and almost split his denomination.

Gays and lesbians later fretted as the White House declined to intervene in the cases of enlisted military members facing courts martial for defying the Clinton-era "don't ask, don't tell" policies.

ACROSS THE NATION

Nevada GOP Sen. Ensign admits extramarital affair

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Sen. John Ensign of Nevada, a conservative Republican with evident presidential ambitions, abruptly announced Tuesday he carried on an extramarital affair for much of last year with a woman on his campaign staff, a confession that jarred his scandal-weary state as well as his party. "It is the worst thing I have ever done in my life," Ensign said in a brief appearance before reporters. He provided few details other than to say he does not intend to resign from Congress, and he did not disclose what prompted his decision to declare his infidelity. "If there was ever anything in my life that I could take back, this would be it," he added. Ensign, 51, belongs to the men's group Promise Keepers, a Christian ministry. A member of the Senate Republican leadership, he was chairman of the party's campaign committee leading up to the 2008 elections in which Republicans lost eight seats to Democrats.

Calif.: Video of octuplets broke child-labor laws

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A Web site's exclusive deal to document the lives of Nadya Suleman and her fragile octuplets came with a hidden risk: State regulators charged Tuesday that two of the newborns were endangered by long hours and inadequate supervision while under the relentless eye of a video camera. The four citations against celebrity hunter RadarOnline came as the latest in a series of questions about the care and treatment of the octuplets born to a single, jobless mother who had lived on government disability payments for years. "These babies were put at risk and exposed to conditions that violated California labor laws," state Labor Commissioner Angela Bradstreet said about the ongoing investigation. "In this case, we are dealing with premature babies." The violations deal with a single day, March 17, and two of the newborns, Noah and Isaiah Suleman, who were the first of the octuplets to be brought home from a hospital to the Los Angeles suburb of La Habra.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Board of Parole
P.O. Box 502641 Saipan, MP 96950-2641
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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT TO ALL MEDIA SERVICES

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Board of Parole, and pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section II of the "Open Government Act of 1992", Notice hereby given that a Preliminary Hearing is scheduled for June 25, 2009, (Thursday) at 10:00 a.m., at the Board of Parole Office, Capitol Hill Building No. 1216, Saipan. The following individual(s) will appear before the Hearing Examiner:

A. Parolee
1. TORRES, Mark Wayne Cr. Cs#00-0012
BOP#07-004

If you have any question or information, please call the Parole Office at telephone number 664-3300 or 3302.

/s/ Ramond B. Camacho June 16, 2009
Chairman, Board of Parole

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
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E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com
Website:cpa.gov.mp

SUMMER INTERNSHIP

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is pleased to announce that a Summer Internship Program is available for Engineering, Architectural and Accounting students. Applicants must have completed 1 year of University level courses from a U.S. accredited university.

The Summer Internship program is for approximately 2 months. Interested students are encouraged to apply at the CPA's Administration Office (2nd floor Arrival Wing) or CPA's Human Resource Office (2nd Floor Departure Wing) of the Saipan International Airport, or it may be downloaded by visiting CPA's website at www.cpa.gov.mp

EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.
Executive Director

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

ADDENDUM 1
DPW09-IFB-019

PUERTO RICO DUMP FINAL CLOSURE SAIPAN, MP

1. **General:** The following revisions, additions, corrections, and/or clarifications to the specifications and drawings shall apply to the work affected thereby. Careful note of this Addendum shall be taken by the bidder/contractor, and all trades affected shall be fully advised of the information contained herein. In the event of a conflict between drawings, specifications and this Addendum, the contents of this Addendum shall govern. All further conflicts in the work resulting from, or caused by, the contents of this Addendum must be brought to the attention of the Contracting Officer for resolution. **Failure to acknowledge this bid Addendum in accordance with instructions may subject your bid to rejection on the affected item(s)/service(s).**

2. **Pre-Bid Conference:** A Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at ***Thursday, June 11,2009 at 10:00 a.m. local time at the Solid Waste Management Division's Lower Base Transfer Station, Lower Base, Sa/pan, MP.***

3. **All Questions:** All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time ***Thursday, June 18, 2009*** to Mr. Steve Hiney, Contracting Officer's Technical Representative, Lower Base Transfer Station, or fax to (670) 322-2762.

4. **Sealed Bids:** must be marked "DPW09-IFB-019". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. July 6,2009. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notice of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 9:00 a.m. local time July 6, 2009, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-Mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than July 6, 2009, and must be received no later than July 15, 2009. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

5. **Bid Opening:** Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, July 16,2009, However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids wil1 be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on July 6, 2009

All other requirements of the Invitation for Bids of the project package remain as stated.

/s/ DIEGO B. SONGSONG
Secretary of Public Works

Asia

NKorea warns US of 'thousand-fold' military action

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea warned Wednesday of a "thousand-fold" military retaliation against the U.S. and its allies if provoked, the latest threat in a drumbeat of rhetoric in defense of its rogue nuclear program.

Japanese and South Korean news reports said North Korea is preparing an additional site for test-firing a long-range missile capable of striking the U.S.

The warning of a military strike, carried by the North's state media, came hours after President Barack Obama declared North Korea a "grave threat" to the world, and pledged that recent U.N. sanctions on the communist regime will be aggressively enforced.

Obama and South Korean President Lee Myung-bak met in Washington Tuesday for a landmark summit in which the two leaders agreed to build a regional and global "strategic alliance" to persuade North Korea to dismantle all its nuclear weapons.

Pyongyang claims its nuclear bombs are a deterrence against the United States and accuses Washington of plotting with Seoul to topple its secretive regime—led by the unpredictable dictator Kim Jong Il who is reportedly preparing to hand over power to his 26-year-old youngest son.

"If the U.S. and its followers infringe upon our republic's sovereignty even a bit, our military and people will launch a one hundred- or one thousand-fold retaliation with merciless military strike," the government-run Minju Joson newspaper said in a commentary.

The commentary, carried by the official Korean Central News Agency, also called Obama "a hypocrite" for advocating a nuclear-free world while making "frantic efforts" to develop new nuclear weapons at home.

"The nuclear program is not the monopoly of the U.S.," it said without mentioning the Obama-Lee summit.

Poll shows Karzai with big lead as campaign begins

KABUL (AP)—Posters of President Hamid Karzai blanketed the Afghan capital Tuesday as the two-month presidential campaign began. While Afghans on the street openly complained about Karzai's rule, a new survey showed why he is likely to win a second term: His opponents have almost no support.

The poll found that 31 percent of 3,200 Afghans surveyed said they would vote for Karzai if the Aug. 20 presidential election were held today—a steep decline from the 55 percent of Afghans who voted to give him a five-year term in 2004.

But Karzai is likely to take comfort with the survey's other results: 69 percent of respondents had a favorable opinion of him, and 43 percent of likely voters said he deserves a second term.

Most strikingly, only 7 percent of respondents said they would vote for Karzai's closet competitor, former Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah. The next strongest opponent, former Finance Minister Ashraf Ghani, had just 4 percent support.

The poll, based on face-to-face interviews, was conducted in May and funded by the International Republican Institute, a non-governmental organization that receives funding from USAID, the U.S. government aid arm. The poll, which sought to strike a representative sample along ethnic and gender lines, had a margin of error of plus or minus 2 percentage points.

Campaigning got off to a slow start Tuesday, with Karzai in Russia and Abdullah not appearing in public. But Ghani held a rally under a colorful tent.

"Today it is your responsibility to make a decision about a government for the people, without corruption and without thieves and robbers," Ghani told several hundred supporters.

Sri Lanka rights abuse probe ends abruptly

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—A Sri Lankan government investigation into human rights abuses during its war with Tamil Tiger rebels has been disbanded with more than half of its cases unresolved, an official said Tuesday.

The decision came as the government brushed off demands for an international investigation into the final ferocious battles of the war, which ended last month after the military routed the rebels in an offensive the U.N. says killed more than 7,000 civilians.

Human rights groups accused the military of shelling civilian areas and said the rebels held hundreds of thousands of people as human shields, shooting those who attempted to flee.

A presidential commission of inquiry was established two years ago under intense international pressure to investigate earlier claims of abuses in the war. It was assigned 16 cases of alleged abuses by both sides, including the 2006 execution-style slaying of 17 aid workers for the French organization Action Against Hunger.

Nissanka Udalagama, a former Supreme Court justice who chaired the commission, said it had only completed work on seven of the assigned cases by the time its mandate expired Sunday. Extensions had been routinely granted in the past, but not this time. Instead, the commission was dissolved, he said.

"We ran out of time," he said. "If we had gotten another year, probably we could have done it."

It was not clear why the inquiry was ended.

ASIAN BRIEFS

NKorea: US journalists plotted 'smear campaign'

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—One video recorder, six tapes, a digital camera and a stone. North Korea laid out its evidence Tuesday against two American journalists sentenced to hard labor for entering the country illegally. The country's official news agency reported that the journalists, Laura Ling and Euna Lee, documented their journey into communist North Korea, even pocketing a stone to commemorate the illicit trip across the frozen Tumen River from China. "We've just entered a North Korean courtyard without permission," the Korean translation of their videotape narration said, according to Korean Central News Agency.

At least 9 die, 32 trapped in Indonesia mine blast

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—An explosion ripped through a coal mine in western Indonesia on Tuesday, killing at least nine people and burying 32 others who were feared dead, officials said. Dozens of rescuers tried to reach the trapped men, but rock slides and a mix of gas and coal debris forced them to resurface after four hours of digging, district police Chief Yasman Esha in West Sumatra province said by phone from the scene. "We fear the miners are dead by now," Esha said.

Pakistan prepares offensive on Taliban stronghold

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan's army launched airstrikes and ferried in tanks and artillery as it confirmed Tuesday that it was preparing a major offensive against insurgents in al-Qaida and the Taliban's safest haven along the Afghan border. The highly anticipated military operation in South Waziristan is seen as a potential turning point in the yearslong and sometimes half-hearted fight against militancy in Pakistan. It could also help curb Taliban attacks on Western forces in neighboring Afghanistan. But the offensive in the lawless tribal region will also be the toughest yet for Pakistan's military, testing both its fighting capability and the government's will to see it through, analysts said.

World

Thousands return to streets of Iran's capital

AP

In this frame grab taken from amateur video, supporters of Iranian reformist opposition leader Mir Hossien Mousavi demonstrate in Tehran, Iran, Tuesday June 16, 2009.

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Thousands of Iranians swarmed the streets of Tehran on Tuesday in rival demonstrations over the country's disputed presidential election, pushing a deep crisis into its fourth day despite a government attempt to placate the opposition by recounting a limited number of ballots.

Iran's supreme ruler drew a firm line against any threats to the regime, warning Iranians to unite behind the country's Islamic system as authorities imposed severe restrictions on independent media.

After days of dramatic images of Iranians protesting the declaration of victory for hard-line President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, the government said employees of foreign media could only cover events authorized and announced by the government.

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei made an extraordinary appeal in response to tensions over the disputed election, which has presented one of the gravest threats to Iran's complex blend of democracy and religious authority since the system emerged from the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

French: Search for Flight 447 to continue

LE BOURGET, France (AP)—The arduous mid-Atlantic search for the remains of Air France Flight 447 will go on as long as there is hope of finding the plane's black boxes, the French defense minister said Tuesday.

Herve Morin and his Brazilian counterpart Nelson Jobim met at the Paris Air Show and shared notes on progress of the search, which includes the Brazilian military, a French submarine and Dutch ships towing two high-tech U.S. Navy listening devices seeking sounds emanating from the Airbus A330's flight data and cockpit voice recorders—pings that will grow faint and die after two more weeks.

"France is determined to continue the search as long as there is hope of finding the black boxes," Morin told reporters at the Paris Air show, seeking to play down reported disaccord between the two countries over how long to keep up the operation.

"We've now found 49 bodies. And we'll continue doing this until the moment that, technically, we determine the searches are useless," Jobim told the Agencia Estado news agency.

Jobim said that after four or more days of not finding bodies, the search could perhaps be halted. The last bodies were believed to have been found Friday by a French vessel, but that has not been confirmed.

WORLD BRIEFS

Russia, China seek greater international clout

YEKATERINBURG, Russia (AP)—The leaders of four major emerging economies—Russia, China, Brazil and India—apparently failed Tuesday to reach consensus on reducing the dominance of the U.S. dollar despite growing calls for an alternative global reserve currency. The four, seeking a greater role in global financial institutions, held the first summit of the so-called BRIC grouping after two days of meetings of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, another group that Russia has sought to use to reassert its role on the global stage. Moscow tried to mount a new challenge to the U.S. dollar as the world's reserve currency and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev pushed his call for more global reserve currencies.

Greek anti-terror officer shot dead in attack

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—Suspected terrorists shot dead an anti-terrorist squad police officer guarding a witness in a trial against a Greek militant group in central Athens early Wednesday, authorities said. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack, which occurred at about 6:20 a.m. (0320 GMT) in the residential district of Patisia. Greek domestic terrorist groups have stepped up attacks since the country was struck by massive riots in December, triggered by the fatal police shooting of a teenage boy. But Wednesday's attack marked a severe escalation, as the vast majority of attacks so far have been late-night bombings that have not caused any injuries.

Military finds one of Mexico's largest meth labs

BADIRAGUATO, Mexico (AP)—The Mexican Navy gave reporters a firsthand look Tuesday at what they described as one of the largest methamphetamine labs ever found in the country, with enough ephedrine to produce more than 40 tons of the drug. The smell of chemical solvents was overwhelming at the remote mountaintop site in the northern state of Sinaloa, where Navy personnel on patrol last week stumbled across an enormous holding tank they initially thought might be used to water a marijuana plantation. Instead, the tank fed water to a pair of enormous sheds where sailors found 49,640 liters (13,000 gallons) of ephedrine, a chemical used to make methamphetamine. That is enough to produce 40.2 metric tons of the drug, or about 309 million individual doses.

Environment

New deep-sea vehicle offers new world of discovery

By KARI LYDERSEN
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

Skimming past otherworldly tube worms and bizarre crustaceans as they traversed primordial sediments in inky darkness seven miles below the surface, a yellow robot two weeks ago became the world's deepest-diving unmanned submersible.

The craft, called *Nereus*, gave scientists on the surface their first long look at a portion of the Challenger Deep, 35,768 feet (10,902 meters) down in the Mariana Trench, a gash in the Earth's crust in the volcanic Pacific Ring of Fire where the Pacific tectonic plate collides with a smaller plate and plunges into the mantle.

Scientists hope *Nereus* will let them open new worlds of discovery in one of the last unexplored realms of Earth — ocean depths below four miles (6,500 meters) that are home to a complex web of creatures that get their energy from methane rather than sunlight.

Just two other vehicles have plumbed the Challenger Deep, and only for fleeting visits compared with the 10 hours *Nereus* spent there.

The first was the bathyscaphe *Trieste*, which carried Swiss oceanographer Jacques Piccard and Navy Lt. Don Walsh to the deep in 1960. *Trieste*, now in the U.S. Navy Museum in Washington, was designed by Piccard and his father, Auguste, using the same buoyancy principles that helped Auguste set balloon flight records. Between 1995 and 1998, Japan's robotic submersible *Kaiko* visited the Mariana Trench three times. In 2003, it was lost at sea.

Nereus, developed and operated by the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution on Cape Cod, is an engineering breakthrough because it can act either as an autonomous underwater vehicle, controlled by onboard computers, or as a remotely operated vehicle tethered to a mother ship by a fiber-optic cable. Named after a Greek god who was half-man and half-fish, *Nereus* is also outfitted with a mechanical arm for collecting physical samples when it is under remote control.

In a typical operation, *Nereus* will first roam an area autonomously, using sonar, chemical sensors and digital photography to record data such as temperature, acidity, salinity and seafloor topography. Then it will return to the ship, where scientists will analyze the information before deciding where to zero in using the tethered function to gather physical samples and more data.

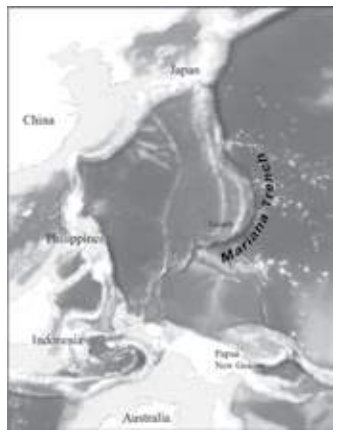
During its May 24 to June 5 maiden voyage from Guam into the Challenger Deep, scientists tested only the tethered mode.

Unmanned, remotely controlled submersibles are widely used undersea for oil and gas operations, but until now they have been encumbered by weighty copper and steel cables providing energy from the mother ship. *Nereus* is powered by 4,000 lithium ion batteries, similar to those in a laptop computer, so most of its tether is a wispy glass-and-plastic fiber-optic cable. A conventional metal cable drops through the first several thousand meters of kelp and sea life, where the risk of a break is greatest, but from there the fiber-optic cable spools out of a small housing. Hundreds of small hollow ceramic spheres in its double hull maintain its buoyancy.

"It's counterintuitive you could connect a vehicle weighing three tons to a surface vehicle weighing 3,000 tons and keep them connected by a thin fiber the diameter of a human hair with breaking strength of eight pounds," said WHOI engineer Andy Bowen, "but that's one of the tricks we've managed to perform."

Nereus' tether can stretch for up to 25 miles, allowing it to not only reach places like the Challenger Deep but also move laterally over great distances. This will come in handy exploring underneath polar ice sheets, one of the important expected future uses of the vehicle.

The ramifications could go well beyond exploration. DNA analysis of deep-water specimens and geologic observations could lend insights into evolutionary processes and Earth's development. *Nereus* could also aid the search for life on other planets, both through findings in the Earth's oceans and by helping to refine technologies that could be used to explore extraterrestrial seas elsewhere in the solar system.



Nereus was tested in the waters off the WHOI dock in April before being sent to the Challenger Deep in the Pacific's Mariana Trench. At 11,000 meters—more than a mile deeper than Mount Everest is high—Challenger Deep is arguably one of the most remote locations on Earth. At that depth, pressures reach 1,100 times the pressure at the surface. Inset map shows the location of the Challenger Deep in the Marianas Trench near the island of Guam in the west Pacific.
TOM KLEINDINST, WHOI, KARL MUSSER, NOAA

ADB to double clean energy investment in Asia

MANILA, Philippines (AP)— The Asian Development Bank said Wednesday it would double its clean energy investments in the region to $2 billion yearly to help cut greenhouse gas emissions that are blamed for global warming.

ADB President Haruhiko Kuroda said the new target, up from $1 billion invested in 2008, will take effect from 2013.

It represents only a fraction of Asia's clean energy needs, but is expected to draw additional resources from the private sector, carbon markets and others, he said.

"These investments will assist our developing member countries in building energy efficient and low-carbon economies for a prosperous and environmentally sustainable future," Kuroda told reporters.

Among the Manila-based lender's clean energy investments are power transmission improvement in Azerbaijan, wind power projects in China and India, hydro power developments in Bhutan, China and Vietnam, and expansion of energy-efficient mass transit systems in several Asian cities.

$10M EPA grants for climate change showcase communities

ON THE NET
http://epa.gov/cleanenergy/energy-programs/state-and-local/showcase.html

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is announcing the availability of up to $10 million in first of its kind, "Climate Showcase Communities" grants to local and tribal governments to establish and implement climate change initiatives that will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The agency expects to award approximately 30 cooperative agreements, each one ranging from $100,000 to $500,000. Approximately 5 percent of the funds ($500,000) are set-asides for tribal governments.

"Ending climate change and moving to a sustainable, clean energy future begins on the ground in our communities," said EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson "We're offering a helping hand to local areas that are leading the way in confronting climate change, and a call to action for anyone concerned about making a difference where they live. We can cut energy costs and reduce harmful emissions at the local level, and build a model for fighting climate change in every community."

EPA requests proposals from local governments, federally-recognized Indian tribal governments, and inter-tribal consortia to create replicable models of sustainable community action, generate cost-effective greenhouse gas reductions, and improve the environmental, economic, public health, and social conditions in a community. A 50 percent cost-share is required for recipients, with the exception of tribal governments and intertribal consortia which are exempt from matching requirements under this grant.

This grant program is administered by EPA's Local Climate and Energy Program, an initiative to assist local and tribal governments to identify, implement, and track policies and programs that reduce greenhouse gas emissions within their operations and surrounding communities. Over the course of the grant program, EPA will offer training and technical support to grant recipients, and share lessons learned with communities across the nation.

Proposals are due by July 22, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. EDT. Grants are expected to be awarded in January 2010. ***(EPA)***

Joint Death Anniversary

We would like to invite our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the 16th and 5th death anniversary of our beloved father, mother and nephew.

Juan Sablan Cabrera 16th Year
Joaquina Diaz Muna Cabrera 5th Year
Ryan Sablan Cabrera 5th Year

Mass is being offered at San Antonio Church at 6:00pm from June 11, 2009 - June 19, 2009. On the final day, Friday, June 19, dinner will be served immediately after mass at the family's residence in Afetna, San Antonio.

Your presence and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Thank you yan Si yu'us Ma'ase.
From the family

Life & Style

Sarah Palin accepts David Letterman's apology

NEW YORK (AP)—Sarah Palin says she accepts David Letterman's apology for the joke he made about her daughter.

The Alaska governor, in a statement issued Tuesday, said the apology was accepted "on behalf of all young women, like my daughters, who hope men who `joke' about public displays of sexual exploitation of girls will soon evolve."

On his CBS' "Late Show" on Monday night, Letterman said his joke about one of Palin's daughters being "knocked up" by Alex Rodriguez can't be defended.

He said the joke referred to 18-year-old Bristol Palin, not her 14-year-old sister Willow. But Letterman said it's his responsibility that people believed that he intended to target Willow, who had attended a New York Yankees game with her mother.

"I'm sorry about it, and I'll try to do better in the future," he said.

Letterman last week tried to make light of the joke after the first indications that it had fallen flat. Palin had called the comments "sexually perverted," and her husband, Todd, said that "any jokes about raping my 14-year-old are despicable."

Palin said Tuesday that Letterman has the right to joke about whatever he wants to, and "thankfully we have the right to express our reaction."

"This is all thanks to our U.S. military men and women putting their lives on the line for us to secure America's right to free speech," she said. "In this case, may that right be used to promote equality and respect."

Not everyone was willing to turn the page.

A "Fire David Letterman" protest was held Tuesday outside the Ed Sullivan Theater, where he tapes the show. The turnout was slim, though: about a dozen.

One of the protesters, New York City real estate agent Tom Muller, said he just wanted "to see a little accountability come to the Letterman show ... And maybe urge him to get back to when he ran a funny TV show and didn't use it for his political pulpit."

Inside the theater, the protest inspired comedy for Tuesday's edition of "Late Show" in the form of "Top Ten Things Overheard at the 'Fire David Letterman Rally.'"

They included:

10. "David who?"

9. "Well, it was nice of CBS to provide the catering."

And ranking No. 8: "We should have done this years ago."

Brent Bozell, president of the conservative watchdog Media Research Center, called Letterman's apology the night before "slippery and Clintonian."

Although Bristol, an unwed mother, was the target of his joke, Letterman didn't name her when it was originally made on June 8.

It was "a coarse joke," "a bad joke," Letterman told viewers. "But I never thought it was (about) anybody other than the older daughter, and before the show, I checked to make sure, in fact, that she is of legal age, 18."

Mia Farrow's brother found dead inside Vt. art gallery

CASTLETON, Vt. (AP)—The brother of actress Mia Farrow has been found dead in his art gallery, and police said Tuesday his death is suspicious.

Sculptor Patrick Farrow, 66, was found late Monday by police responding to an emergency call from the Farrow Gallery in Castleton, a small town near the New York border. A woman there had called asking for help.

An autopsy was planned to determine the cause of Farrow's death. Police said they wouldn't release additional information until it was complete.

State police Lt. Timothy Oliver called Farrow's death suspicious in a written statement Tuesday. Oliver, who didn't respond to telephone calls on the case, told WPTZ-TV that police don't suspect foul play, but he said there were some things out of the ordinary at the scene; he didn't elaborate.

Farrow, a professional sculptor for more than 35 years, operated out of a converted church building. The Farrow Gallery sells jewelry and mixed-media works of art, according to its Web site. The gallery is owned and operated by Farrow and his wife, artist Susan Farrow.

Mia Farrow, whose movies include "Rosemary's Baby," "Hannah and Her Sisters" and "Crimes and Misdemeanors," is the former longtime companion of director Woody Allen. Their relationship ended in scandal and New York tabloid headlines in 1992, when she found out he was having an affair with her adopted daughter Soon-Yi Previn, then 22.

Farrow is the daughter of director John Farrow and actress Maureen O'Sullivan.

David Schilling, an assistant to Mia Farrow's manager, Laura Berwick, said late Tuesday he had just heard of Patrick Farrow's death. He had no immediate comment on it.

Last year, a nephew of Mia Farrow and Patrick Farrow who had spent nearly 20 years in the Army was killed in Iraq.

Sugarland, Zac Brown Band early CMT award winners

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Taylor Swift opened Tuesday's Country Music Television awards with a skit about living out her dreams. The 19-year-old country and pop sensation went a long way toward doing just that by winning video of the year and female video of the year for "Love Story" and by performing with one of her favorite rock bands.

"I want to thank Shania Twain for always making such theatrical videos, and Garth Brooks for always putting the fans first. I take my cues from you," Swift said in accepting video of the year honors. "I thank the fans for giving me video of the year when my whole family is here watching."

Swift won the fan-voted award over Brad Paisley's "Waitin' On a Woman," Trace Adkins' "You're Gonna Miss This," Carrie Underwood's "Just a Dream" and Sugarland's "All I Want to Do." Swift won video of the year and female video of the year for "Our Song" last year.

Her "Love Story" video is an elaborate production with period costumes that echoes the story of Romeo and Juliet.

"This is for everybody who still believes in love stories, because I do," Swift said earlier in winning female video.

She closed the awards show by performing "Pour Some Sugar On Me" with the British rock band Def Leppard.

AP

Taylor Swift, left, and Def Leppard's Joe Elliott perform at the CMT Music Awards in Nashville, Tenn., Tuesday, June 16, 2009.

Miami priest in photo scandal weds girlfriend

MIAMI (AP)—A telegenic Miami priest known as "Father Oprah," who left the Catholic Church amid an uproar over tabloid photos of him kissing his girlfriend on the beach, made the relationship official Tuesday, marrying the woman he was involved with for about two years.

The Rev. Alberto Cutie and Ruhama Canellis were married by a judge in Coral Gables, according to Miami-Dade County court records. No other details of the wedding were known.

It was the latest in the public spectacle that started when photos of Cutie embracing his longtime girlfriend surfaced last month.

Amid the scandal, Cutie was removed from his South Beach parish, protesters marched to support him, and he departed from Catholicism to become an Episcopal priest.

Cutie, 40, did not respond to an e-mail seeking comment. Last month, in an interview with CBS, he said, "I believe that I've fallen in love and I believe that I've struggled with that, between my love for God, and my love for the church and my love for service."

Canellis, 35, met Cutie in church. The priest said they were friends for years before becoming romantically involved. An e-mail to Canellis prompted an automatic reply that said the account was not being checked but to "keep us in your prayers."

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Imagine That

Friday		4:25	7:20	9:55
Saturday	1:30	4:25	7:20	9:55
Sunday	1:30	4:25	7:20	
Mon		4:25	7:20	
Tues thru Thurs	1:30	4:25	7:20	

Eddie Murphy, Yara Shahidi
Family-Oriented Comedy • Rated PG

Synopsis

Like many busy professionals, Evan Danielson (Eddie Murphy) is so focused on his career that quality time with his young daughter, Olivia (Yara Shahidi), has fallen by the wayside. When an important promotion is suddenly within reach, stressed-out Evan starts to fall apart while trying to fend off his company rival (Thomas Haden Church) . But when little Olivia introduces him to the inhabitants of her imaginary land, Evan rediscovers his inner child and finds the answers to all his problems.

Taking of Pelham 123

Friday		4:20	7:05	9:50
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:05	9:50
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:05	
Mon		4:20	7:05	
Tues thru Thurs	1:20	4:20	7:05	

Denzel Washington, John Travolta
Thriller • Rated R

Synopsis

A New York City subway dispatcher draws on his extensive knowledge of the subway system in order to outsmart a dangerous criminal mastermind who's hijacked a subway train in this remake of the 1974 thriller inspired by John Godey's best-selling book. Walter Garber (Denzel Washington) was drifting through his daily routine when he received word that a heavily armed gang of four has hijacked a subway train and are holding all of the passengers hostage.

★ ★ ★

Land of the Lost

Friday		4:00	7:00	9:45
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	9:45
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Mon		4:00	7:00	
Tues thru Thurs	1:00	4:00	7:00	

Will Farrell, Anna Friel
Adventure, Family, Fantasy • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Has-been scientist Dr. Rick Marshall, is a man with no weapons, few skills and questionable smarts who must survive an alternate universe full of marauding dinosaurs and fantastic creatures from beyond our world. Marshall has been sucked through a space-time vortex to a place of spectacular sights known as the Land of the Lost. Coming along with him for the adventure are crack-smart research assistant Holly and a redneck souvenirist named Will.

The Hangover

Friday		4:30	7:25	9:30
Saturday	1:25	4:30	7:25	9:30
Sunday	1:25	4:30	7:25	
Mon		4:30	7:25	
Tues thru Thurs	1:25	4:30	7:25	

Bradley Cooper, Ed Helms
Comedy • Rated R

Terminator Salvation

Friday		4:15	7:30	10:00
Saturday	1:10	4:15	7:30	10:00
Sunday	1:10	4:15	7:30	
Mon		4:15	7:30	
Tues thru Thurs	1:10	4:15	7:30	

Christian Bale, Sam Worthington
Action, Sci-Fi • Rated PG 13

Up

Friday		4:05	7:10	9:35
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:10	9:35
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:10	
Mon		4:05	7:10	
Tues thru Thurs	1:05	4:05	7:10	

Ed Asner, Jordan Nagai
Comedy, Adventure, Family • Rated PG

Night at the Museum 2

Friday		4:10	7:15	9:40
Saturday	1:15	4:10	7:15	9:40
Sunday	1:15	4:10	7:15	
Mon		4:10	7:15	
Tues thru Thurs	1:15	4:10	7:15	

Den Stiller, Amy Adams
Comedy, Sequel • Rated PG

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Publisher of 'Harry Potter' denies plagiarism

LONDON (AP)—The publisher of the wildly popular and very profitable "Harry Potter" books says it intends to fight a lawsuit alleging that author J.K. Rowling stole the idea for the series about the boy wizard.

Bloomsbury Publishing PLC is being taken to court in London by the estate of the late author Adrian Jacobs for copyright infringement, statements released Tuesday by the publishing house and legal representatives of the estate said.

"The estate ... claims that the book `Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire,' reproduces substantial parts of the works of Adrian Jacobs, 'The Adventures of Willy the Wizard,' without consent, and that in selling the books, Bloomsbury has infringed and continues to infringe copyright," said a statement on the Web site of London lawyers DMH Stallard, the firm representing the estate.

Jacobs died in London in 1997. His book "The Adventures of Willy the Wizard—No. 1 Livid Land" was published in 1987, according to a statement released by the estate's representatives, who are based in Australia.

"Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire" is the fourth book in Rowling's series and was published in July 2000.

Bloomsbury said Tuesday that the allegation that Rowling lifted from Jacobs' work is "unfounded, unsubstantiated and untrue."

Jacobs' estate first approached Bloomsbury in 2004, but was "unable to identify any text in the Harry Potter books which was said to copy 'Willy the Wizard," the company said.

Rowling made no comment on the suit. Bloomsbury said the claim is baseless and the books "will be defended vigorously."

"J.K. Rowling had never heard of Adrian Jacobs nor seen, read, or heard of his book 'Willy the Wizard' until this claim was first made in 2004,'" the statement said.

Usher: He and wife living apart for nearly a year

ATLANTA (AP)—Usher Raymond says he and his wife were separated for nearly a year before the R&B singer filed for divorce, calling the marriage "irretrievably broken," according to court records.

The divorce petition, initiated by Usher, says the couple has lived separately since July. The two were married in a glitzy ceremony in August 2007, but split nearly a year later. The petition was filed Friday in Fulton County Superior Court.

The Raymonds have two young sons: 1 1/2-year-old Usher Raymond V and 6-month-old Naviyd Ely Raymond. Tameka Raymond has three children from a previous marriage.

The petition says there is "no reasonable hope of reconciliation" between Usher, 30, and Tameka Raymond, 38.

Usher is seeking joint custody of the children.

Tameka Raymond is contesting the divorce and has 30 days to respond to the petition. She said through her divorce attorney that she has been a "faithful wife and loving mother" during the marriage.

The couple is due in court on July 15.

About 200 people attended their wedding at resort built in the style of a 16th-century-style French chateau on 3,500 hilly acres outside Atlanta.

In a May 2008 interview with The Associated Press, Usher addressed negative feedback from bloggers over his relationship with his wife, who's eight years older than he and was once his stylist. Before they married, Usher had a string of romances, most notably his three-year relationship with Chilli from TLC.

The Grammy-winning artist's hits include "Confessions," "Burn," "You Make Me Wanna" and "Yeah!"

Baron Cohen—as Bruno—poses nude on cover of GQ

NEW YORK (AP)—Sacha Baron Cohen strips down as his alter ego—Austrian fashionista Bruno—for the July cover of GQ magazine.

According to the magazine, Bruno is the first subject to appear fully naked on the cover. Jennifer Aniston, wearing a necktie and nothing else for the January issue, came close.

Bruno sports nothing but a tanned glow and a shaggy head of highlighted hair.

The actor-comedian's 2006 movie, "Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan," was a surprise box-office hit. His new film, "Bruno," is scheduled for release July 10.

Baron Cohen staged an elaborate prank at the recent MTV Movie Awards. In character as Bruno, he descended from the ceiling on a wire in a fake mishap that ended with his bare hindquarters in rapper Eminem's face.

Eminem stormed off in a huff, but later said he was in on the joke.

GQ
No Joke! It's Our #ü@%ing COMEDY ISSUE!
(And Our First Nude Cover. Sorry.)
FROM BORAT TO BRÜNO
SACHA BARON COHEN
REVEALS HIS MOST OUTRAGEOUS CHARACTER YET
LOOK SHARP • LIVE SMART
>ALL THE CLOTHES YOU NEED FOR SUMMER (Unless You're Brüno, Who Clearly Doesn't Need Any)
>HOW TO BUY THE RIGHT SWIMSUIT NO MATTER WHAT SHAPE YOU'RE IN (And This Time We're Not Kidding)
THE HILARIOUS RAGE OF GLENN BECK
GET TO KNOW YOUR INNER BRO
BOLDLY GOING INSIDE THE RADICAL NEW PLAN TO TAKE US TO MARS
KNOCKED UP Sarah Palin, The Baby Daddy, And The Story She Doesn't Want You to Hear

AP

In this image released by GQ Magazine, Sacha Baron Cohen, as the character Bruno, is shown on the cover of "GQ" magazine.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Terri Seymour granted restraining order

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP)—Terri Seymour has won a restraining order against a woman who choked her after the "American Idol" finale. Records show a judge granted Seymour's request for a three-year order after a hearing Tuesday in Santa Monica. Her attacker, Janice Thibodeaux (Ti-boh-DOH'), pleaded guilty last week to misdemeanor battery. She was sentenced to three years of probation. She was arrested in May after police say they saw her choke Seymour, who is "Idol" judge Simon Cowell's ex-girlfriend, after the show's finale. Seymour also works as a correspondent for the show "Extra." Thibodeaux claimed she choked Seymour as retaliation for Cowell playfully choking fellow judge Paula Abdul on the show a week earlier.

No police contact with Lohan over missing jewelry

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A spokeswoman for Lindsay Lohan says the actress has not been questioned by London police investigating jewelry that went missing after a fashion shoot there. Lohan spokeswoman Leslie Sloane-Zelnik said Tuesday that Lohan has not been contacted by authorities but would comply in an investigation if necessary. She also noted that nearly 20 people were working at the Elle magazine photo shoot featuring the 22-year-old. London's Metropolitan police confirmed Tuesday that a necklace and earrings worth more than $400,000 were missing from a studio in north London in early June. The fashion magazine said in a statement Tuesday it had no reason to believe that Lohan was in any way linked to the alleged theft. A police spokesman said no arrests have been made and would not comment on whether Lohan had been interviewed or was even related to the case in any way. He spoke on condition of anonymity in line with police policy.

Bob Bogle of rock band The Ventures dies at 75

TACOMA, Wash. (AP)—Bob Bogle, lead guitarist and co-founder of the rock band The Ventures, known for 1960s instrumental hits including "Walk, Don't Run," has died at age 75. Don Wilson, the band's other co-founder, told The News Tribune of Tacoma that Bogle became ill over the weekend and died Sunday. The band sold millions of albums and heavily influenced other rock guitarists. It was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2008. The hall's Web site hailed The Ventures as "the most successful instrumental combo in rock and roll history." "Walk, Don't Run" reached No. 2 on the Billboard chart in 1960, and a revised version, "Walk, Don't Run '64," reached No. 8 in 1964. Among the band's other hits were "Perfidia" and the theme from "Hawaii Five-O." The band got its start in 1958 in Tacoma. Bogle initially played lead and bass and Wilson played rhythm guitar. They were soon joined by Nokie Edwards, another guitarist, and drummer Howie Johnson, later replaced by Mel Taylor. "Our aspirations were to pick up nothing heavier than a guitar," Wilson said last year. "But it just mushroomed into something where we became internationally known." The Ventures were particularly popular in Japan, where Wilson and Bogle played as a duo during their first tour in 1962 because the promoter couldn't afford to pay the other two band members.

Employer obliged to give new mom a private space

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: Please tell "Privacy Please in Santa Clara, Calif." (March 16) that she does not have to pump her breast milk in the bathroom! Depending on the laws in her state, she may be entitled to request that her employer create a dedicated pumping location for new moms.

Pumping in the restroom could endanger her baby's health. That new mom needs a clean, private space to pump and should ask her boss for help in establishing a special room.

Kudos to "Privacy Please" for doing the very best thing for her baby. Hopefully her employer will realize what a valuable, dedicated individual she is and accommodate her needs so she can continue her high-quality work performance while also taking care of her little one.

NURSING MOM IN TEXAS

DEAR NURSING MOM: Thank you for raising the issue about the laws pertaining to new nursing moms. Several states have expanded their breast-feeding laws to include provisions that protect a mother's right to express milk in the workplace. California requires employers to provide break time for employees to do this and to make reasonable efforts to provide a location other than a toilet stall, with a penalty for non-compliance. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I, too, was the first new mom in my office who faced the challenges of pumping in order to continue providing my baby with breast milk. It makes me cringe to think that "Privacy" has to resort to using an unsanitary bathroom stall for this task.

There is legislation in her state that requires her employer to supply her with a room other than a toilet stall for privacy. The La Leche League Web site at www.lalecheleague.org is an excellent resource for breast-feeding moms and provides links to this legislation as well as laws in other states.

ALICIA IN DULUTH, MINN.

DEAR ABBY: The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) has put together a tool kit to help employers understand and take the necessary steps to support breast-feeding employees. Recent studies show that there are many advantages, including lower absenteeism rates and improved productivity. An information booklet titled, "Easy Steps to Supporting Breastfeeding Employees" can be accessed online at www.ask.hrsa.gov.

HELEN IN CHICAGO

DEAR ABBY: My employer suggested that I pump in the women's restroom. I replied that I would be happy to do that if the CEO would like to prepare his lunch there as well. It's ridiculous for a nursing mom to go through the process of sterilizing every part of the pumping apparatus and then have to finish the process in a public bathroom. I hope her company will change its policy because it has been proven that breast-fed babies are healthier—and as a result, parents are less likely to miss work to stay home caring for sick children.

CONTENT MOM IN VIRGINIA

DEAR ABBY: I am proud that I am still able to provide my baby with breast milk after nine months while working full-time. I posted a sign on my office door that reads: "Food prep! Door will be unlocked at (insert time)." It gives my co-workers a chuckle.

STILL NURSING IN NASHUA, N.H.

DEAR ABBY: My wife hangs a sign in her office that reads: "I make milk. What's your superpower?"

MARRIED TO A SUPERMOM

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby – Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

I INVITED LIZ OVER FOR YOUR BIRTHDAY
JIM DAVIS 6-18
ONE...TWO...THREE... FOUR...
YOU'RE COUNTING CAKE SLICES, AREN'T YOU?
BETTER BAKE TWO
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

CLAYTON, ALWAYS CHECK WITH ME FIRST BEFORE YOU THROW ANYTHING AWAY. SOME OF THIS STUFF COULD BE WORTH MONEY.
OKAY.
WHAT'S THIS?
THAT'S A TYPE-WRITER.
IS IT WORTH ANYTHING?
NOT ANYMORE...
WHERE'S THE MOUSE?
I BET HE'S SLEEPING. GIVE IT A COUPLE SHAKES...
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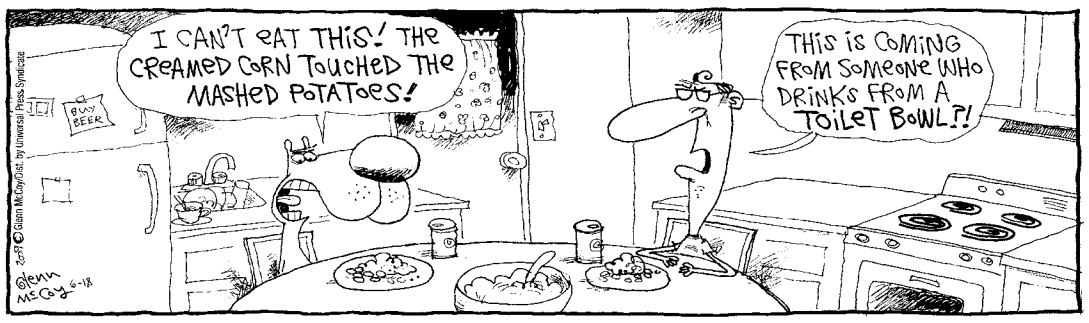
The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


I CAN'T EAT THIS! THE CREAMED CORN TOUCHED THE MASHED POTATOES!
THIS IS COMING FROM SOMEONE WHO DRINKS FROM A TOILET BOWL?!
BUY BEER
2-18 © Glenn McCoy/Dist. by Universal Press Syndicate
Glenn McCoy 6-18

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

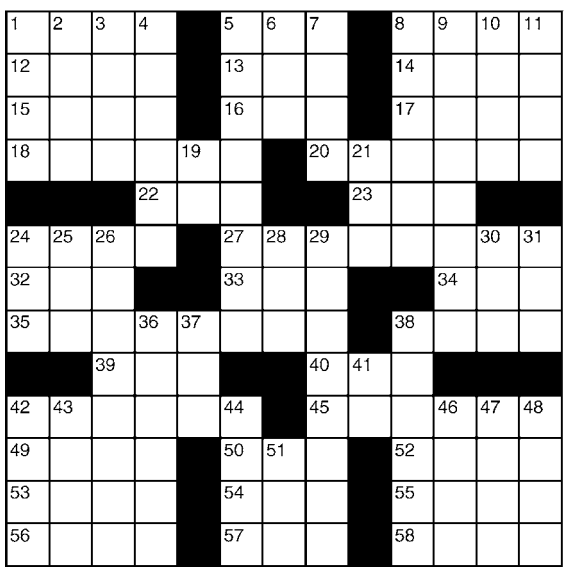
ACROSS
1 Elevator man
5 Playground game
8 Uncertain
12 Rid of rind
13 Inseparable
14 Exposed
15 Egress
16 Atmosphere
17 Pedestal occupant
18 Drop from the will
20 Computer-to-phone links
22 Nourished
23 Nov. follower
24 Musical phrase
27 Pollution filter of a sort
32 Greek H
33 Vitamin stat
34 Fish eggs
35 MySpace rival
38 Without acting
39 Mess up
40 Type measures
42 Prophet whose donkey scolded him
45 Awkwardly stiff
49 Cow-headed goddess
50 Lawyers' org.
52 Nibble
53 Biography
54 Solidify
55 Faris of "Scary Movie"
56 Back muscles, briefly
57 Squid squirt
58 Authentic

DOWN
1 Newspaper page
2 Cab
3 Camera part
4 Ignite
5 Bidirectional
6 Blackbird
7 Bacterium
8 In the same place (Lat.)
9 Jack, e.g.
10 Gift-tag word
11 Longings
19 Lindbergh book
21 Praise in verse
24 Ump
25 Call — day
26 "Nip/Tuck" offering
28 Commotion
29 One-sided contest
30 Fa-la connector
31 Crucial
36 Obliterates
37 Support provider
38 Weather-map line
41 Criminal's procedure (Abbr.)
42 Check
43 One side of the Urals
44 Creche trio
46 Eat in style
47 Sicilian spouter
48 Actress Patricia
51 Stiller or Stein

Solution time: 25 mins.

T	R	A	P	■	B	E	T	■	S	M	U	T
E	A	C	H	■	R	A	Y	■	P	I	N	E
M	I	N	O	T	A	U	R	■	A	N	T	E
P	L	E	B	E	■	■	O	P	T	I	O	N
■	■	■	I	D	E	M	■	R	E	S	■	■
P	U	M	A	■	V	I	S	A	■	T	O	W
S	R	I	■	M	I	N	T	Y	■	R	U	E
I	N	N	■	E	L	S	A	■	B	Y	T	E
■	■	A	H	A	■	K	N	E	E	■	■	■
F	E	R	U	L	E	■	■	M	A	L	L	S
A	V	E	R	■	M	I	N	U	T	I	A	E
V	E	T	S	■	I	V	E	■	I	C	O	N
E	R	S	T	■	L	Y	E	■	T	E	S	T

Yesterday's answer 6-18



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Carol Kane, 57; Isabella Rossellini, 57; Roger Ebert, 67; Paul McCartney, 67

Happy Birthday: You have plenty going on and opportunities galore this year. Travel, education, communication and technology will all play important roles. Take care of personal responsibilities and you will make fast improvements in your life and your future, achieving your goals. Your numbers are 7, 12, 17, 22, 27, 33, 48

ARIES *(March 21-April 19)*: Taking more time to help others will lead to new opportunities. Loving what you do and the people you are working with can make life easier. If you want something, take action and make things happen. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20)*: A personal project will supply you with what you need to take positive steps in a different direction. Love is in the stars and you will meet someone who interests you or improve a relationship you are already in. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20)*: Take time to think things through. If you are impulsive, you will pay the price. Someone isn't giving you all the information you need to make the right decision. An added responsibility may save you from making a horrible mistake. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22)*: Stick to the group you know and the pastimes that make you happy. You may be tempted to change something or someone in your life but, in the end, you will want things back the way they were. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22)*: You will have a great idea that can lead to money. Don't let someone who is less adventuresome stop you from following a dream or pursuing a challenge. An older friend, relative or neighbor will need your help. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)*: Plan a trip or sign up for something you really want to do. You can perfect one of your talents if you practice. Love is in the picture—all you have to do is charm the person you want to spend more time with. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)*: Don't get too comfortable when you should be enjoying life, socializing and experiencing new people, places and things. You have to put yourself out there. An interesting product will tempt you and bring results that are pleasing but pricey. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)*: Push for what you want. Stand up for what you believe in and refuse to give in to bullies or anyone who wants to change you. Don't spend impulsively but improve your surroundings to better suit your needs. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)*: You may think you are prepared to win but someone you least expect will have the right answers and technique to stand out. A trip to visit someone you can learn from will pay off. It will also make you realize how much work you have ahead of you. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)*: You are attracting the right people and should be able to complete something spectacular. There is money to be made and jobs that can increase the value of your assets. Home improvement projects will pay off. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)*: Be careful what you say. You may offend someone you are trying to impress. Listening will help you establish what others like and want, making it easier for you to please anyone you want to get to know better when the time is right. ✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20)*: Sudden changes will occur at home that will send you into a tailspin. Nothing is as bad as it seems and your tendency to let your emotions run wild will make matters worse. Stay calm. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are an adventurer and have vast interests. You are a student, a teacher and a visionary. You are a humanitarian and are solid, responsible and a team player.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	2		6				4	
7								1
			2	9	3			
		5				2		6
		2		5		1		
4		7				5		
			7	6	4			
2								3
	9				5		6	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 6/18

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Wednesday's SUDOKU Answer

9	4	5	6	1	7	8	2	3
1	7	3	2	5	8	9	6	4
8	2	6	9	4	3	7	1	5
2	3	8	1	7	4	5	9	6
4	5	7	8	9	6	2	3	1
6	9	1	3	2	5	4	7	8
3	8	9	4	6	2	1	5	7
7	6	2	5	8	1	3	4	9
5	1	4	7	3	9	6	8	2

Difficulty Level ★★★ 6/17

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

BLAZING 7's **Solution: 7 letters**

S	G	C	A	R	O	U	S	E	L	M	P	E	C	T
E	N	I	H	C	A	M	E	S	L	O	L	R	U	E
Q	I	O	M	A	R	A	L	L	O	D	A	O	R	C
U	L	L	I	A	N	I	U	O	G	N	Y	C	R	H
E	B	O	R	T	G	C	R	B	S	A	E	S	E	N
N	M	O	E	H	A	E	E	M	P	R	R	E	N	O
C	A	T	T	P	G	N	S	Y	B	A	S	I	C	L
E	G	S	E	A	Y	C	I	S	B	I	P	A	Y	O
S	I	N	M	Y	G	A	D	B	O	S	S	T	S	G
U	N	E	A	L	E	S	U	N	M	H	B	O	C	Y
N	S	K	X	I	T	I	A	S	E	O	U	P	R	S
O	E	O	I	N	A	N	L	A	N	I	C	K	E	L
B	R	T	M	E	R	O	R	L	U	C	K	C	E	L
A	T	R	U	S	T	T	V	A	L	U	E	A	N	E
C	O	D	M	S	S	C	R	E	D	I	T	J	E	B

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Bars, Bells, Bonus, Bucket, Carousel, Cash, Casino, Chance, Combinations, Credit, Currency, Dollar, Gambling, Games, Hearts, Images, Insert, Jackpot, Lights, Logs, Luck, Machine, Maximum, Meter, Nickel, Noise, Paylines, Payout, Players, Random, Residual, Rules, Score, Screen, Sequences, Slots, Spin, Stool, Strategy, Symbols, Technology, Tokens, Value

Yesterday's Answer: Examining

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WHATZIT Solution: Overexcited

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Opening Date: Tuesday, June 9, 2009 Closing Date: Monday, June 22, 2009

JVA No. 09-017 Trades Assistant (Three positions)
JVA No. 09-018 Trades Technician (Three positions)
JVA No. 09-019 Trades Specialist (Electrician, One position)

Location: Water Wastewater Division, Saipan.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Opening Date: Tuesday, June 9, 2009 Closing Date: Thursday, June 18, 2009

JVA No. 09-020 Meter Reader (Two positions)
JVA No. 09-021 Accounting Technician (Two positions)

Location: Billing Section, Saipan.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Opening Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2009 Closing Date: Until Filled

JVA No. 09-023 Information Technology Specialist (One position)
JVA No. 09-024 Information Technology Manager (One position)

Location: Administration, Saipan.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Opening Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2009 Closing Date: Monday, June 29, 2009

JVA No. 09-025 Trades Assistant (Ten positions)

Location: Power Division, Saipan.

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Big Papi leads Red Sox to win

BOSTON (AP)—David Ortiz homered to start a six-run inning, then added a two-run single to finish it as the Boston Red Sox beat the Florida Marlins 8-2 on Tuesday night.

Tim Wakefield (9-3) allowed two runs in six innings to improve to 6-0 at Fenway Park this season.

Chris Volstad (4-7) allowed nine hits and a career-high eight runs before he was chased in the fourth, when the Red Sox sent 11 batters to the plate. It was his fourth consecutive loss.

Ortiz, who did not homer in the first six weeks of the season, now has five for the year—four of them in the last nine games. His batting average is back up to .210—still 73 points below his career average.

AP

Florida Marlins catcher John Baker waits as Boston Red Sox' David Ortiz follows through on a solo homer during the fourth inning of their baseball game at Fenway Park in Boston Tuesday, June 16, 2009.

Rangers 6, Astros 1

At Arlington, Texas, Ian Kinsler homered twice and Texas beat Houston as the Astros' Ivan Rodriguez matched the major league record for games caught.

Rodriguez, who began his career at age 19 in 1991 and played 12 seasons in Texas, homered for the Astros. It was his 2,226th career game behind the plate to tie Hall of Fame catcher Carlton Fisk.

Kinsler, 4 for 33 with no RBIs the previous eight games, put the Rangers ahead to stay with his fourth leadoff homer this season. He added another solo shot in the second off slumping left-hander Wandy Rodriguez (5-6).

Rays 12, Rockies 4

At Denver, Evan Longoria, Carlos Pena and the Tampa Bay Rays powered their way past Colorado, snapping the Rockies' 11-game winning streak.

Longoria and Pena hit two of the Rays' five homers. Kapler, Ben Zobrist and B.J. Upton also homered.

Colorado's winning streak was tied with Boston for the longest in the majors this season and also tied for the longest in Rockies' history, matching the mark set during their 21-1 run to the 2007 World Series.

The Rays won their sixth straight.

Mets 6, Orioles 2

At Baltimore, three Orioles' errors led to three tainted Mets runs, helping Mike Pelfrey earn his first win in more than five weeks.

New York had lost eight of 12, including two of three to the Yankees over the weekend. In the first game, Mets second baseman Luis Castillo dropped a popup that enabled the Yankees to score the winning runs in the ninth inning.

Pelfrey (5-2) allowed two runs and five hits in 5 2-3 innings. The right-hander had gone 0-2 in six starts since defeating Philadelphia on May 7.

Yankees 5, Nationals 3

At New York, Robinson Cano hit a tiebreaking double in the seventh inning and matched a career high with four hits, leading the Yankees to victory.

CC Sabathia (6-4) held Washington in check after light-hitting Anderson Hernandez's three-run homer in the fifth gave the Nationals the lead. The 6-foot-7 left-hander departed after walking Nick Johnson with two outs in the eighth inning and received a standing ovation.

Brewers 7, Indians 5

At Cleveland, Yovani Gallardo won for the third time in four starts, despite walking a season-high six.

Gallardo (7-3) gave up two runs and five hits while striking out eight. He twice worked out of bases-loaded jams.

The Indians went hitless in 14 tries with runners in scoring position and left 12 runners stranded overall until Travis Hafner hit a two-run homer in the ninth to make it 7-5.

J.J. Hardy had two hits and two RBIs for Milwaukee.

Cardinals 11, Tigers 2

At St. Louis, Albert Pujols hit his fifth home run in five games as St. Louis routed Detroit.

Pujols also drew his major league-leading 19th and 20th intentional walks in only semi-threatening situations before lining his 23rd homer an estimated 446 feet over the left field wall off Ryan Perry to start the sixth. Chris Duncan followed with a 418-foot shot that gave the light-hitting Cardinals back-to-back homers for the first time all season.

Royals 5, Diamondbacks 0

At Kansas City, Gil Meche pitched a four-hit shutout and Mark Teahen had three hits and drove in a run for the Royals.

Meche's shutout was the second of his career and was his first complete game since Sept. 24, 2007.

Meche (4-5) improved to 14-4 in interleague play. His .778 winning percentage against the National League tops all active pitchers with at least 20 interleague starts.

Twins 8, Pirates 2

At Minneapolis, Glen Perkins won his first start off the disabled list and Joe Mauer backed him with his second four-hit game of the season for Minnesota.

Perkins (2-3) allowed two runs and seven hits in six innings, striking out four and walking one to win for the first time in seven starts since defeating the Los Angeles Angels on April 19.

Mariners 5, Padres 0

At San Diego, Felix Hernandez pitched a two-hitter and Seattle handed San Diego a record-setting 12th straight interleague loss.

Franklin Gutierrez and Adrian Beltre each hit solo homers for the only offense Hernandez would need as he threw his third career shutout and sixth career complete game.

Hernandez (7-3) struck out six and walked three.

Angels 8, Giants 1

At San Francisco, Mike Napoli had a three-run homer among his four hits as Los Angeles won its season-best fifth straight game.

Sean O'Sullivan (1-0) was called up from Triple-A Salt Lake to make the start after the Angels scratched Ervin Santana because of a strain below his pitching elbow in the forearm area. O'Sullivan allowed five hits and one run, struck out five and walked one in seven strong innings. He also hit an infield single leading off the fourth for his first big league hit.

Reds 7, Braves 2

At Cincinnati, Laynce Nix drove in three runs and Brandon Phillips had three hits on a soggy field, helping Cincinnati Reds overcome a couple of rain delays and end a four-game losing streak.

Nix drove in runs with a groundout and a pair of doubles, the last one during a four-run eighth inning. He also finished with three hits.

Sammy Sosa reportedly failed drug test in 2003

NEW YORK (AP)—Sammy Sosa tested positive for a performance-enhancing drug in 2003, The New York Times reported Tuesday on its Web site, the latest in a string of baseball stars implicated in the sport's steroids scandal of the past decade. The Times said Sosa is one of 104 players who tested positive in baseball's anonymous 2003 survey, which has been the subject of a protracted court fight. The paper did not identify the drug.

It cited lawyers with knowledge of the 2003 drug-testing results and reported they spoke on condition of anonymity because they did not want to publicly discuss material under court seal.

Sosa is sixth on baseball's career home run list with 609, all but 64 for the Chicago Cubs. He has not played in the majors since 2007 with Texas.

In 2003, baseball did not have penalties for the first-time use of performance-enhancing drugs.

Sosa's agent, Adam Katz, told The Associated Press he had no comment on the report. Commissioner's office spokesman Rich Levin also had no comment, saying Major League Baseball didn't have a copy of the test results.

Michael Weiner, the union general counsel, also declined comment. The union, while fighting to get the list back from the government, has mostly refused to discuss reports about the list because it does not want to confirm or deny who is on it.

Several of the game's biggest stars, including home-run king Barry Bonds, Roger Clemens, Mark McGwire and Jose Canseco, have been implicated in steroids use.

Miguel Tejada was sentenced to one year of probation for misleading Congress after he pleaded guilty and admitted he withheld information about an ex-teammate's use of performance-enhancing drugs.

Los Angeles Dodgers slugger Manny Ramirez is serving a 50-game suspension for violating baseball's drug policy. New York Yankees star Alex Rodriguez in February admitted using steroids from 2001-03 with Texas following a report by Sports Illustrated that he was among the 104 players on the list.

Sosa sat alongside Palmeiro, Canseco and McGwire at a 2005 hearing before Congress and testified: "To be clear, I have never taken illegal performance-enhancing drugs."

"I have never injected myself or had anyone inject me with anything," he told the House Government Reform Committee on March 17, 2005. "I have not broken the laws of the United States or the laws of the Dominican Republic. I have been tested as recently as 2004, and I am clean."

That left open the possibility he used a substance legally in the Dominican Republic that would have been illegal to use in the United States without a prescription.

Rep. Henry Waxman, who co-chaired the hearing, declined comment, spokeswoman Karen Lightfoot said.

Palmeiro, like Sosa, denied ever using performance-enhancing drugs but not even two months later he tested positive for the anabolic steroid stanozolol, leading to a 10-day ban from MLB.

Bonds is under federal indictment, and Clemens is being investigated by a federal grand jury to determine whether he lied when he told Congress he never used steroids or human growth hormone.

Canseco has written two books discussing his use of drugs.

"To just speculate from an era of how many years it was of who did and didn't do what, it's impossible," Cubs general Jim Hendry said before Tuesday night's game against the Chicago White Sox was rained out. "It's just time to put that whole era behind us and move on."

Former pitcher Pedro Martinez played against Sosa for many years.

"This news would make me feel terrible if it is proven that Sammy tested positive," Martinez said in the Dominican Republic.

"This is a problem of all of baseball, not just Dominican baseball. But in reality, this is a problem of education that has to be attacked," he said.

Sosa, now 40, and McGwire engaged in a race in 1998 to break Roger Maris' season record of 61 home runs, a chase that captivated the country. McGwire set the mark while Sosa, with a big smile and a trademark hip-hop out of the batter's box, finished with 66.

Sosa followed up by hitting 63, 50, 64, 49 homers in his next four years. He hit 40 more in 2003, a season in which he was caught using a corked bat in front of his home crowd at Wrigley Field.

Baseball management's drug policy prohibited the use of steroids without a valid prescription since 1991, but the enforceability of those rules was repeatedly questioned by the union, which did not reach a drug agreement until August 2002. There were no penalties for a positive test in 2003—those tests were conducted to determine if it was necessary to impose mandatory random drug testing across the major leagues in 2004.

As part of the drug agreement, the results of the testing of 1,198 players in 2003 were meant to be anonymous. Penalties began in 2004, and suspensions for a first positive test started in 2005.

Government agents initially obtained search warrants in 2004 for the drug-testing records of 10 players as part of the BALCO investigation that led to Bonds' indictment but they found the more expansive list on a spreadsheet, obtained additional warrants and seized the larger group of records.

The union went to court, arguing the search was illegal, and three U.S. District Judges agreed. The government appealed, and a panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled for the government, but the entire 9th Circuit threw out the reversal and decided to hear the case itself. The hearing was in December, and the decision is pending. The losing side could then appeal to the Supreme Court.

Magic willing to pay luxury tax to keep Turkoglu

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Hedo Turkoglu emptied his locker, shook hands with teammates and walked out of the Orlando Magic's practice facility Tuesday.

The Magic are optimistic it wasn't the last time.

Chief operating officer Alex Martins said the team is prepared to go over the luxury tax for the first time in its history, perhaps giving the Magic the space they need to re-sign the soon-to-be free agent Turkoglu and remain a contender to return to the NBA finals.

"The luxury tax won't be a hindrance," Martins said.

Turkoglu, Orlando's starting forward and a key component to its Eastern Conference title, reiterated Tuesday that he's planning to opt out of the last year of his contract to become a free agent July 1. Turkoglu would make about $7.3 million next season in the final year of a $36 million, six-year deal.

"Opting out doesn't mean I'm going to leave," he said. "I'm looking for the best opportunity for myself and my family. I hope everything will work out for both sides and I stay here because I became Turkoglu here. It's a good time for me to make a decision, and hopefully everything will work out and I'll be in a Magic jersey."

There are plenty of other questions surrounding the Magic's future.

With Jameer Nelson already named the starting point guard for next season, the team will have to decide whether it wants to keep Rafer Alston—and his $5.25 million contract that ends after next season—as a backup alongside reliable reserve Anthony Johnson. Alston was unhappy with his minutes in the Magic's 4-1 series loss to the Los Angeles Lakers in the finals, with Nelson returning prematurely from a shoulder injury that had sidelined him since early February.

Even Alston isn't sure whether he'll be back.

"I always think I'm going to be traded. Absolutely I do," Alston said. "That's just the life of the business. I always think I'm going to be traded. I don't know. I think (teams) don't respect my point guard abilities. That's every team I've been on."

AP

Orlando Magic's Hedo Turkoglu (15), from Turkey, shoots over Los Angeles Lakers' Andrew Bynum in the first quarter of Game 5 of the NBA basketball finals Sunday, June 14, 2009, in Orlando, Fla.

Backup center Marcin Gortat also will be looking for a pay raise. He will be a restricted free agent and likely get a contract worth well more than the $770,00 he made this season, making it difficult for Orlando to retain him and Turkoglu.

Magic general manager Otis Smith said he's prepared to let Turkoglu and Gortat explore the free-agent market before making an offer.

"You're not going to buy a house without appraising it first," Smith said. "Appraise it."

The Magic have made no secret that re-signing Turkoglu is their biggest goal this offseason.

The 6-foot-10 forward from Turkey provides all kinds of matchup problems for opponents. His rare combination of size and ballhandling skills have made him the player the Magic run their offense through when it counts the most.

But it will be difficult to re-sign him because Orlando is hampered with big contracts to its All-Star core of Dwight Howard, Nelson and Rashard Lewis, who will be entering the third year of his $118 million, six-year deal.

But Martins said the team's recent success has given the franchise some wiggle room.

He said the Magic have sold about 4,000 extra season-ticket plans during the playoffs for next year, putting them at about 11,000. Their new arena, the Orlando Events Center, is scheduled to open for the start of the 2010 season and increase revenue—which is the primary reason they can go into the luxury tax if necessary.

Turkoglu couldn't say for sure whether he'll stay.

The 30-year-old forward averaged 16.8 points, 5.3 rebounds and 4.9 assists this season. Those were slightly down from a year ago, when he was voted the NBA's most improved player.

Turkoglu has spent the last five seasons in Orlando after four with the Sacramento Kings. He said he would like to remain with the Magic, but that securing his family's future is the most important thing this offseason. Turkoglu said he would consider taking less money to stay with the team he loves.

"Depends on how much less it is," he said. "Look, I have good stuff going on here. I'm not stupid."

Browns' Stallworth pleads guilty and gets 30 days

MIAMI (AP)—Cleveland Browns wide receiver Donte' Stallworth began serving a 30-day jail sentence Tuesday for killing a pedestrian while driving drunk in Florida, a punishment made possible by his cooperation with investigators and the fervent wish by the victim's family to put the matter behind them.

Stallworth, 28, received the sentence after pleading guilty to a DUI manslaughter charge for striking and killing Mario Reyes while driving drunk March 14 in his black 2005 Bentley. The athlete also reached a confidential financial settlement with the family of the 59-year-old construction worker.

Without the plea deal, the DUI manslaughter conviction could have netted Stallworth 15 years in prison. After his release from jail, he must serve two years of house arrest and spend eight years on probation. The house arrest provisions will allow him to resume his football career, his attorney said.

NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said the league is reviewing the matter for possible disciplinary action. Stallworth could face suspension without pay for some games this year.

Leonard Little of the Rams pleaded guilty to involuntary manslaughter after he hit and killed a woman while driving drunk in 1998 and served an eight-game suspension, though the punishment was doled out when the league was a bit more lenient.

The Browns also said they were evaluating the situation, saying they were "very conscious of the seriousness of the charges" to which Stallworth pleaded guilty.

Stallworth's attorney, Christopher Lyons, said the financial settlement was only one factor in the plea agreement. He noted that Stallworth stopped immediately after the accident, called 911 and submitted to roadside alcohol testing despite spending most of the night drinking at a swanky Miami Beach hotel.

"He acted like a man," Lyons said. "He remained at the scene. He cooperated fully."

Stallworth told Miami-Dade Circuit Judge Dennis Murphy that he hopes to get involved in drunken driving education programs.

"I accept full responsibility for this horrible tragedy," said Stallworth, who was accompanied at the hearing by his parents, siblings and other supporters. "I will bear this burden for the rest of my life."

Stallworth also must undergo drug and alcohol testing, will have a lifetime driver's license suspension and must perform 1,000 hours of community service. Lyons said after five years, Stallworth could win approval for limited driving such as for employment.

Miami-Dade State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle echoed Lyons in citing Stallworth's lack of previous criminal record, cooperation and willingness to accept responsibility as factors in the plea deal. Rundle also said the Reyes family—particularly the victim's 15-year-old daughter—wanted the case resolved to avoid any more pain.

"For all of these reasons, a just resolution of this case has been reached," Rundle said.

None of the Reyes family attended the hearing. Their attorney, Rodolfo Suarez, read a statement saying the family wants to "bring closure to this emotional and tragic event." Suarez did not respond to an email seeking comment.

After a night drinking at a bar in Miami Beach's Fountainebleau hotel, police said Stallworth hit Reyes, a construction crane operator who was rushing to catch a bus after finishing his shift around 7:15 a.m. Stallworth told police he flashed his lights in an attempt to warn Reyes, who was not in a crosswalk when he was struck.

Stallworth had a blood-alcohol level of .126 after the crash, well above Florida's .08 limit. Stallworth stopped after the crash and immediately told officers he had hit Reyes. Police estimated Stallworth was driving about 50 mph in a 40 mph zone.

Stallworth signed a seven-year, $35 million contract with the Browns before last season but was injured much of the year. The California native and University of Tennessee college star has also played in the NFL for New England, Philadelphia and New Orleans.

The night before the crash, Stallworth earned a $4.5 million roster bonus from the Browns.

Love tweets that McHale will not return to Wolves

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Minnesota Timberwolves forward Kevin Love said on Twitter that Kevin McHale will not return as coach next season.

In an update posted early Wednesday, Love tweeted, "Today is a sad day ... Kevin McHale will NOT be back as head coach this season."

Upon seeing the posting, a person in the league was told McHale sent a text message to Love indicating he was not coming back. The person requested anonymity because no official announcement has been made.

New team president David Kahn and a Timberwolves spokesman did not immediately return messages left by The Associated Press.

McHale and Love grew very close during the rookie's first season in Minnesota, especially after McHale left his front office position to take over as coach in December. About an hour after his initial posting, Love appeared to express some regret about making McHale's correspondence public.

"P.S. I am not a breaking news guy..." Love tweeted. "I had no idea no one knew…I'll tell them I stayed at a holiday inn express (sic) last night. Always works...."

During a breakfast with media members on Monday, Kahn said no decision had been made and he hoped to meet with McHale again this week.

Team owner Glen Taylor hired Kahn last month to take the spot vacated when Taylor inserted McHale as coach for the fired Randy Wittman. Ever since he was hired, Kahn pledged to handle the decision on McHale's job status with professionalism and respect.

McHale, who grew up on Minnesota's Iron Range and starred at the University of Minnesota, has been with the organization for 15 years. Most of that time was spent as the primary decision maker on personnel matters until Taylor made him coach.

"Kevin has a long history here and a relationship with the owner that I respect and trust," Kahn said at his introductory press conference. "I will not hurt Kevin McHale. I will not."

On Friday, Kahn said his primary efforts were focused on the June 25 NBA draft and he didn't think a decision on McHale needed to be made before then.

"The draft has a deadline," Kahn said. "The coaching decision doesn't."

Still, McHale's absence from team workouts involving potential draft picks in the last two weeks has been noticeable, as was his exclusion from an eight-hour state of the team meeting Sunday involving Kahn and the rest of the basketball staff.

The rebuilding Timberwolves showed improvement under his relentlessly positive coaching style, and every player has said they would like to see McHale return to the bench next season.

"If there's some kind of way that he leaves the Timberwolves," star forward Al Jefferson said in April, "that's when I'll be very, very upset."

SIP

From Page 28

bound pass to Bonbon Cadagat and went for a fastbreak layup. However, Mateo was too fast for his own good and lost the ball.

Cadagat also had his booboo moments when he babied an open layup and then missed his own two putbacks at the end of the buzzer in regulation.

In overtime, SMF and SIP made one big-time basket after another. The first one was from SMF, which had Sonny Lerio connecting on a booming triple off Cadagat's kick-off pass that gave the Quichocho Law Office-sponsored team a 104-102 lead.

With 16 seconds left in the first overtime, Edsel Mendoza attacked SMF's defense, missed his target, but got the offensive rebound and this time made a banked shot to tie the game, 104-104, with only there seconds left in the game.

Lerio had the last shot in the first overtime, but his triple was way off the mark, sending the game into another overtime.

James Villacrusis and Brendon Talania nailed crucial threes in the second overtime, while Mendoza went 6-for-8 from the foul line to finally end the game in favor of SIP.

Talania top-scored for SIP with 28 points, while Mendoza chipped in 24, making 11 points in two overtimes. Talania filled the void left by Elmer Esdrelon on SIP's offense. Esdrelon was forced to sit in the bench in the last two minutes of the regulation

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MDX-Chow Queen forward Ivan De Vero is blocked by Bayani's Glenn Aquino, left, and Darwin Barbo during their game in the 7th United Filipino Organization Inter-Organizational Basketball League Tuesday night at the JP Center Basketball Court.

after sustaining a cut near his right eyebrow, following a collision with SMF's Joemary Tumaquip

In the first game, MDX nearly collapsed after leading by as much as 16 points in the first half, 43-27, before heads-up plays from Kae Bernardo saved the team in the fourth quarter.

MDX was in full control of the match in the first half when the power went off. It took awhile before the game resumed and MDX had lost fire, allowing Bayani to cut the lead to seven at halftime, 45-52.

Bayani continued its uphill climb in the second half and even took the lead, 59-58, on a James Abuy shot midway in the third period.

The third canto ended with MDX keeping the lead, 73-67, but Bayani threatened anew, moving within two, 88-90, with 40 seconds left in the game.

Bayani had a chance to tie the game after Ryan Sanciangco made a steal, but he missed his layup and Abuel got the rebound. Abuel then pitched the ball to the sprinting Bernardo, who drew the defense of Abuy first before making a drop pass to Banjo Basila for an easy layup and a four-point MDX lead, 92-88.

Free throws from Bernardo and Abuel in the last 30 seconds of the game secured the win for MDX.

First Game

MDX 95 – Bernardo 24, Basila 14, Tamayo 12, Pantaleon 11, Abuel 11, De Vero 6, Demapan 5, Galvez 4, Melj. Capalad 4, Melv. Capalad 2, Galulu 2.

Bayani 88 – Sanciangco 18, Delos Reyes 14, Abuy 13, Tabora 11, Aquino 10, Vinas 9, Barbo 9, Palma 4.

Scoring by quarters: 28-21, 52-45, 73-67, 95-88.

Second Game

SIP 120 – Talania 28, Mendoza 25, Villacrusis 16, Mateo 15, Factor 9, Esdrelon 7, Guiab 7, Camacho 7, Lauron 4, Guiab 2.

SMF 114 – Lerio 32, Cadagat 27, Cruz 16, Tumaquip 12, Itaas 12, Ong 7, Pagarao 3, Moises 2, Apelo 2, Tagle 1.

Scoring by quarters: 19-20, 42-44, 68-69, 90-90 (regulation), 104-104 (1OT), 120-114 (2OT).

JONES

From Page 28

6-1, 6-1. Miller and Jones' victory assured the CNMI two slots on the North Pacific Team that will compete in the 2009 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji in August.

Also guaranteed to earn spots on the North Pacific Team are Melody Johnson and Jodel Fernandez.

Johnson thwarted Shawn Adams of the Federated States of Micronesia, 6-1, 1-6, 6-2, to advance to the finals of the girls' 14-and-under age group against Guam's Katie Lai. Lai gained the first finals seat after ending Negahr Rastguiy's winning run with a straight set victory in the semis, 6-1, 6-1.

Fernandez defeated FSM's Sofie Fidden, 6-2, 6-0, to go undefeated in her pool and advance to the semifinals.

Counting Ji Hoon Heo and Thea Minor's automatic slots in the boys' 18-and-under and girls' 14-and-under divisions, the CNMI now owns six tickets to the POJC trip.

"Maybe my hair is safe for now, but if Benjie [Decena] and Theecel [Minor] pull off upsets tomorrow [today], I may have to have my head shaved," CNMI coach Jeff Race said in a telephone interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Race challenged his wards he will have a new hairdo if they get eight spots on the North Pacific Team.

The Top 3 placers in each age group will get slots on the North Pacific Team. However, only two players from the same nation can make the team. Kiribati is automatically given the fourth spot, as it is too expensive for its players to go to Guam and join the qualifier.

Benjie Decena, who was undefeated in the first two days, bowed to tournament top seed Michael Tan, 6-7, 7-6, 6-3, but still advanced to the Final Four. The Tinian-based netter needs to pull off an upset over Guam's Martin Lai today to make it to the Top 3 and give the CNMI a seventh POJC ticket.

Theecel improved to a 3-2 record after beating Arlie Bonto of Guam, 6-1, 6-0, in the morning match in the girls' 18-and-under division. Theecel was leading FSM's Alyssa Hawkins in the afternoon match yesterday and a win could put the former in the semifinals.

KAITO

From Page 28

years and from a kid who was at first afraid of the water, he has grown to be a record-holder in his age group.

In April this year during Tsunami Saipan-Saipan Swim Club dual meet, Kaito timed in at 37.47 seconds time in the 50m freestyle swim in the boys' 8-and-under age group. He broke the 30-year mark of Jonathan Sakovich, who clocked in at 37.67 seconds in the 50m freestyle on April 5, 1979.

Kaito said he hopes to set more records next season so he continues to train hard. While kids of his age are having their vacation, Kaito has been spending school break at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool, attending Tsunami Saipan's training sessions.

"You will not improve if you are always absent in practice and will not listen to your coach," Kaito said.

In the 2008-2009 season, Kaito was among the eight Tsunami Saipan swimmers who recorded more than 90 percent practice attendance.

FIBA

From Page 28

will be in town for the Congress. Joining them are FIBA Oceania president Barbara Wheadon and FIBA technical director Lubomir Kotleba.

"This will be the first time that the FIBA World president, the FIBA World secretary general, the FIBA sports director, the FIBA Oceania president and most members of the FIBA Oceania Board will be in CNMI," Smith said.

"The FIBA president and secretary general are both very busy people with great demands on their time and 213 federations around the world all wanting to share that time. The FIBA Oceania Tournament and our Congress are good reasons to pay their first visit to Saipan. We hope as a result of the visit of the FIBA World and FIBA Oceania officials that FIBA will gain a better understanding of the issues facing our sport across the region, because this can assist in our continuing quest to develop the game in all countries in our region," he added.

Smith is also hoping that Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands, which is the local organizer for the FIBA Oceania caging, will use the opportunity of the presence of the two highest officials of the federation to meet with government authorities and with the media to give the profile of basketball a significant boost.

On the same day of the Congress, FIBA Oceania will be having a small function to honor a number of people who have made a special contribution to the development of basketball across the region during its first 40 years.

Besides the Congress, FIBA Oceania will also conduct a referee certification clinic. Kotleba, who is in charge of Referees Education, will hold the clinic and will be assisted by FIBA licensed referee instructor Ken Coulsen of New Zealand.

Coaches will be given attention, too, with FIBA Oceania development manager Regan Kama and FIBA Oceania zone development officer Ryan Burns holding meetings with the participating coaches to try to improve the coaching knowledge across the region.

FIBA Oceania special projects manager Judy Smith will be in charge of the management part, as she will meet administrators present from the various associations and encourage them to discover how FIBA Organizer and FIBA Livestats can be used to improve the conduct of competitions in their respective tournaments.

Meanwhile, Steve Smith wants CNMI basketball fans to prepare themselves for a high level of competition in the Oceania caging, which will kick off this Sunday.

"This event will bring teams to Saipan from New Caledonia, Guam, Australia and New Zealand. Players, coaches and fans can expect to see a level of play, a top caliber of athlete, and a standard of coaching and officiating well above than the domestic leagues played in the CNMI," Smith said.

While Smith understand the participating teams' desire to win the gold medal, he is still reminding participants to look at the other purpose of the tournament.

"The sport is more than wins and losses and who collects the gold medal. We have very deliberately created an athlete village style atmosphere with common accommodation and shared dining in the hope that international bonds of tolerance and understanding are created by being together on Saipan for the Oceania tournament. We know from past experience that lifelong friendships can be created from meeting at our Oceania events and we hope as a result of the meeting on and off the court, we will build some new basketball friendships across the Pacific," the FIBA Oceania secretary general added.

SIX

From Page 27

Mercy rule will also be applied for the tournament. The 10-run mercy rule takes effect starting in the fifth inning, while the 15-run mercy rule will apply beginning in the fourth inning.

Games in the Miller Lite Marianas Cup Slow-pitch Softball Qualifier will start at 10am.

The champion of the Saipan qualifier will take home $500 in cash plus other prizes from PTC.

For more information about the 7th Annual Miller Lite Marianas Cup Slow-pitch Softball Qualifier, call Jovie Flores at 256-5515 or 287-5515.

Last year, centerfielder Julian Camacho blasted two homers to lead Shell Marianas to an 8-0 shutout win over Natibu in the championship match in the 6th Annual Miller Lite Marianas Cup Co-ed Slow-pitch Softball Qualifier at the Capitol Hil Ballfield.

The championship was the sixth in a row for the winning team, which changed its name from No Ka Oi to Shell Marianas last year. ***(Mark Rabago)***

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	39	25	.609	–
New York	37	27	.578	2
Tampa Bay	35	31	.530	5
Toronto	35	31	.530	5
Baltimore	27	37	.422	12

Central Division

Detroit	34	30	.531	–
Minnesota	33	33	.500	2
Chicago	30	34	.469	4
Kansas City	29	34	.460	4 1/2
Cleveland	29	38	.433	6 1/2

West Division

Texas	36	27	.571	–
Los Angeles	34	29	.540	2
Seattle	31	33	.484	5 1/2
Oakland	27	36	.429	9

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	36	26	.581	–
New York	33	29	.532	3
Florida	32	34	.485	6
Atlanta	30	33	.476	6 1/2
Washington	16	46	.258	20

Central Division

Milwaukee	36	29	.554	–
St. Louis	35	30	.538	1
Cincinnati	32	31	.508	3
Chicago	30	30	.500	3 1/2
Pittsburgh	30	34	.469	5 1/2
Houston	29	33	.468	5 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	43	22	.662	–
San Francisco	34	30	.531	8 1/2
Colorado	31	33	.484	11 1/2
San Diego	28	35	.444	14
Arizona	27	38	.415	16

Yesterday's Games

Milwaukee 7, Cleveland 5
N.Y. Mets 6, Baltimore 4
Toronto 8, Philadelphia 3, 10 innings
N.Y. Yankees 5, Washington 3
Cincinnati 7, Atlanta 2
Boston 8, Florida 2
Texas 6, Houston 1
Chicago White Sox at Chicago, ppd., rain
Kansas City 5, Arizona 0
Minnesota 8, Pittsburgh 2
St. Louis 11, Detroit 2
Tampa Bay 12, Colorado 4
Seattle 5, San Diego 0
L.A. Dodgers 5, Oakland 4, 10 innings
L.A. Angels 8, San Francisco 1

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

UFO STANDINGS

MDX	3	0
Bayani	2	1
SIP	2	1
VisMinda	2	1
SMF	1	2
NMBA	0	2
Cabalen	0	3

SHIRLEY'S STANDINGS

G4S	6	1
Advanced	5	1
Fiesta	4	2
MBI	2	5
PTC	1	5
Shirley's	1	5

Mieko urges local triathletes to take part in XTERRA Malaysia

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Mieko Carey had a great time in XTERRA Malaysia and she wants Saipan triathletes to have the same experience next year.

"It was a great event. The organizers were awesome, as they took care of us like we are celebrities. There were a lot of Malaysian media covering the event," said Carey, who finished second behind XTERRA Saipan Championship five-time winner Renata Bucher of Switzerland in the women's pro division.

XTERRA Malaysia was held in Kuantan, Pahang, which is the largest state in Peninsular Malaysia. The races include a 1.5-kilometer swim in the clear blue waters of the South China Sea, a 30-km jungle and descent bike course, and a 10-km trail run.

"I was very excited to finish the race and I was the first Asian female finisher," said Carey, who completed the race in two hours, 45 minutes, and 26 seconds.

"The weather was great for the first four days, but on our fifth day and on the race day it rained hard. Kevin [Carey], and I trained for the heat on Saipan and we never expected we will be racing in the rain in Malaysia," Carey said.

Kevin Carey competed in the 35 to 39 age group and was fifth among 32 participants.

Husband and wife, Kevin and Mieko Carey pose for a photo with the clear blue waters of the South China Sea and the transition loop as background after completing the 2009 XTERRA Malaysia held at Kuantan, Pahang on June 6.

CONBTRIBUTED PHOTO

He finished the rain-soaked race in 3:17:31.

Despite the rain, Carey said the water was peaceful and not that cold, but she and the rest of the participants had troubles with jellyfish.

"I was out of the water six or seventh and was a few minutes ahead of Renata. Many swimmers, including me, got jellyfish sting," Carey said.

In the bike leg, Carey rode along with Bucher and the former thought she was headed for trouble when she heard noises coming from her bike.

"In the bike leg, I knew Renata would catch me somewhere, but I tried hard to keep pace with her. I had a great time riding with her. When I got to the beach part, I could hear my bike making noises and that made me think about buying a new bike. We had to bike on the beach. It was hard, even for the pros," Carey said.

"When I went to transition 2, around 100 people were cheering us, so it made the race more exciting and fun," she added.

Then came the run course, which was a two-lap run and had participants passing through a small zoo and seeing some local animals.

"The beginning of the run course was all up hill which was very difficult. There were many stairs in this section. The second loop we had to run through the ocean and do some bouldering. When I was heading through the finish chute, I was able to cheer for other competitors starting their second lap," Carey said.

For the finale, the awards ceremony, Carey and company had something others would envy.

"The royal family watched the race and gave us the awards. Who gets awards from the royals?" the XTERRA World veteran added.

"I want to go back to Malaysia and bring more Saipan athletes there," said Carey, who will be competing next in XTERRA Japan in Maranuma in August.

G4S, Advance rout foes

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
G4S' Nat Banatasa is seen here driving against two Fiesta defenders during their rain-suspended game in the Shirley's caging last Friday at the JP Center Basketball Court in Garapan. G4S played also last Monday and defeated PTC, 89-57.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

G4S and Advance X-Terminators had walks in the park Monday night, easing past separate opponents in the Inaugural Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League.

G4S demolished Pacific Trading, Co. in the first game at the JP Center Basketball Court in Garapan to improve to a 6-1 record and keep the No. 1 spot. The X-Terminators are not far, gaining their fifth win in six games following a similar 89-66 rout of Micronesian Brokers, Inc. in the first match.

The loss dropped MBI to a 2-5 record, while PTC also absorbed its fifth defeat after six games.

PTC was very much in the game in the first half, trailing by only six, 34-40. However, PTC crumbled, offensively in the third period, making only four points on Sherwin Taisacan and Ray Camacho's one field goal each.

In contrast, G4S had a balance offense, getting contributions from seven players. Amancio Chavez led G4S' 25-4 scoring in the third period, knocking down two triples, while Nat Banatasa chipped in six. Five other G4S players had a basket apiece.

PTC's offense improved in the fourth quarter, but the team had already put itself into a deep hole and it was hard to get out with the time not on its side.

Jerry Larioza led G4S' winning cause, firing 14 markers. G4S had 13 players on its 15-man lineup making it into the scoreboard.

PTC had only eight players contributing on offense and it played without center Jojo Garon for the second straight time. Frank Sarmiento and Erlan Lansang had 12 points apiece for PTC, but both were scoreless in the third when G4S pulled away.

In the first game, spitfire Mike Olaitiman exploded for 34 points to lift the X-Terminators to their third straight win.

Olaitiman had 18 first-half points, allowing X-Terminators to take a double-digit lead at halftime, 49-36. He slowed down a bit in the third quarter, nailing only four markers and MBI cut the lead to 10, 64-54, entering the fourth period.

However, Olaitiman saved his best for last, firing 12 in the payoff quarter to break the game wide open and foil MBI's repeated comeback bids.

Olaitiman outscored the entire MBI crew in the fourth quarter. MBI was held to 11 points with only Art Trajano drilling more than a field goal for his team in the final period.

Rocyl Ritual and Rodel Apostol were the other double figure scorers for the X-Terminators, tallying 17 and 15 markers, respectively.

First Game

Advance 89 – Olaitiman 34, Ritual 17, Apostol 15, Lontoc 8, Daprosa 7, Gozon 6, Capillan 2.

MBI 66 – Nonato 19, Trajano 16, Alvarez 12, Barbo 9, Achas 6, Sese 4.

Scoring by quarters: 23-19, 49-36, 64-54, 89-66.

Second Game

G4S 89 – Larioza 14, Banatsa 12, Guiab 10, Chavez 10, Basa 10, Caras 6, Hermoso 6, Serrano 5, Soriano 4, Aquino 4, Urrea 4, Sison 2, Angeles 2.

PTC 57 – Sarmiento 12, Lansang 12, Babauta 11, Taisacan 8, Maglaya 6, Manganti 4, Reyes 2, Camacho 2.

Scoring by quarters: 20-11, 40-34, 65-38, 89-57.

Yang wins second straight CWGA tourney

Kyung A. Yang followed up her victory in last month's CNMI Women's Golf Association tournament by winning the June edition last Saturday at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort west course.

The 23-handicapper fired a 93 gross following a 45 in the front nine and a 45 in the back nine and finished with a 70 net. It was two shots off the 68 net she scored in the CWGA May tourney.

Sachiko Adachi came in second in the June affair, carding a net 71 following a 93 gross (50-43) for the 22-handicapper.

Wun Ae Chang completed the Top 3 with her 72 net. She actually finished tied with Kyung Ran "Grace" Soe but defeated her on a tiebreak

Also making it in the Top 10 June are Sherlyn Jones (73), Noriko Togawa (75), Ukita Terue (75), Yuko Togawa (76), Lou Kim (76), and Yang Kim (79).

A total of 18 players took part in the CWGA's June tournament, including newcomer Young In Jeong, who had a gross of 92.

Established in March 2007, CWGA is a nonprofit organization founded to promote, encourage, and introduce women to the sport of golf in the CNMI.

The organization intends to accomplish the following: 1. Promote civic and community interest in golf; 2. Establish and encourage competition and good sportsmanship; 3. Promote and provide social functions of the members and their families; 4. Promote youth golf activities; and 5. To do any or all things necessary and proper to accomplish its purpose and intention.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Participants of the June tournament of the CNMI Women's Golf Association pose for a group shot at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort grounds.

CWGA also commits its members to abide by a set of values that will further enrich a golfer's performance, attitude, and conduct-adopted form the USA Junior Golf Association.

The set of values members of CWGA are committed to faithfully are as follows: perseverance; sportsmanship; respect; honesty; judgment; responsibility; reliance; courtesy; and sincerity. ***(Mark Rabago)***

Six teams sign up for Marianas Cup

A total of six teams have signed up for this weekend's 7th Annual Miller Lite Marianas Cup Slow-pitch Softball Qualifier.

Pacific Trading Co. sales manager Mike Babauta said the number could even go up to as much as 10 teams as four other squads have signified their interest in joining the tournament, which kicks off this Saturday, June 20, at the Dandan Elementary School Softball Field.

The winner of the Marianas Cup qualifier will represent the island in the 7th Annual Miller Lite Marianas Cup Slow-pitch Softball Tournament, where it will go up against the qualifiers from Tinian, Rota, and Guam.

The competition will adopt a modified co-ed format, which calls for nine male and a female player on the field for defense at all times, while the batting lineup must include two female players.

See SIX on Page 26

Mieko urges local triathletes to take part in XTERRA Malaysia

Mieko Carey had a great time in XTERRA Malaysia and she wants Saipan triathletes to have the same experience next year.

27

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Sammy Sosa reportedly failed drug test in 2003

Sammy Sosa tested positive for a performance-enhancing drug in 2003, The New York Times reported Tuesday on its Web site, the latest in a string of baseball stars implicated in the sport's steroids scandal of the past decade.

24

SIP, MDX deliver in crunch time

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Defending champion Samahang Ilokano at Pangasinense and MDX showed toughness in the stretch to pull off back-breaking victories against separates foes in the 7th United Filipino Organization Inter-Organizational Basketball League Tuesday night at the JP Center Basketball Court in Garapan.

MDX-Chow Queen survived Bayani's rally to notch a 95-88 win, while SIP-Marianas Wireless eked out a 120-114 double overtime triumph over Samahang Manggagawang Filipino.

The victory was second in a row for SIP, which lost its debut against MDX during the opening of the league. The defending champions are now tied with Bayani and VisMinda in second place, while MDX solidified its hold of the top spot with a clean 3-0 slate.

Both SIP and SMF had chances to win the game in regulation.

With less than a minute left in the fourth period, SIP's Nate Mateo stole Jericho Cruz's in-

See SIP on Page 26

Samahang Ilokano at Pangasinense's Alex Lauron, left, and Samahang Manggagawang Filipino's Joemary Tumaquip battle for the rebound during their double overtime game in the UFO caging Tuesday night at the JP Center Basketball Court in Garapan.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

FIBA bigwigs here for Oceania caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The 2009 FIBA Oceania Basketball Tournament will bring more than just competition in the CNMI, as the Commonwealth will also host other valuable events that will help in the continued development of the sport here and across the region.

For one, Saipan will host FIBA Oceania Congress. The June 24 event will have the region's officials electing the FIBA Oceania Board for 2009-2013. Also, reports of activities in the region since FIBA Oceania met in 2007 in Samoa will be discussed.

FIBA World secretary general Patrick Baumann and FIBA World president Bob Elphinston

See FIBA on Page 26

FIBAOCEANIA.COM

FIBA World secretary general Patrick Baumann will be on Saipan to attend the FIBA Oceania Congress set for June 24.

Jones, Miller extends rivalry in NPQ

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The rivalry between Rafael Jones and Christian Miller has reached Guam, as the two CNMI junior tennis players advanced to the finals of the 2009 North Pacific Qualifying Tournament.

Jones and Miller, which dueled in title matches in four tournaments on Saipan this year, downed separate foes in the semifinals of the boys' 14-and-under division of the qualifier yesterday at the Rick Ninete Tennis Courts to arrange another face-off for the championship.

Jones defeated teammate Jake Lee in the first semis pairing, 6-1, 6-2, while Miller topped Guam's Chris Morrison in the other semis game,

See JONES on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Christian Miller, seen here returning the ball to Rafael Jones during their title game in last month's DFS netfest, will face his perennial foe in the finals of the boys' U14 division of the 2009 North Pacific Qualifying Tournament at the Rick Ninete Tennis Courts in Guam.

Kaito Yanai: Life saver

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Meet Kaito Yanai, who was encouraged to join swimming lessons with Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan not because he wants to win, but because he hopes to save lives.

"My father [Daisuke] encouraged me to try swimming. At first, I don't like it because I used to play basketball a lot. Then, he told me that through swimming I can save lives, so I started training," the 8-year-old swimmer said.

Though he doesn't want to see people in danger, Yanai said he will not hesitate to help a person drowning.

"We were taught water safety and we are training hard on improving our swimming skills, so if someone needs help, we must help them," Yanai said.

Yanai has been with Tsunami Saipan for two

See KAITO on Page 26

Athletes Name: Kaito Yanai
Age: 8
Sport: Swimming
Team: Tsunami Saipan
Favorite Swimmer: Kensuke Kimura